

Iraq allows 10 Italians to leave

AMMAN (R) — Ten Italian men arrived in Jordan on an Iraqi Airways flight Wednesday after Baghdad freed them on health grounds. "I am very happy to have these 10 people out," legislator Mario Capanna of Italy's Greens Party, who travelled with the party after visiting Iraq, told reporters at Amman airport. Italian Ambassador to Jordan Franco de Courten said the men, seven from Iraq and three from Kuwait, were all in poor health and that Iraq had let them fly out as a humanitarian gesture. They were the first group of Western men allowed to leave Iraq or Kuwait since U.S. politician Jesse Jackson brought 10 sick Americans out of Kuwait Sept. 2. Italy said earlier the release of the 10 would leave 310 Italians still in Iraq and 40 in Kuwait. Iraq is allowing Western and Japanese women and children to leave but is keeping most of their menfolk as deterrents against possible attack. Capanna said Italians still in Iraq were "under stress but the morale is high." The situation in Baghdad was "very normal, orderly."



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Iraq, S. Arabia clash in Paris

PARIS (R) — Saudi Arabia clashed with Iraq at a United Nations conference Wednesday after an Iraqi envoy accused Kuwait of conspiring to hurt Baghdad's economy. "Does he think he is addressing a bunch of simpletons?" Saudi Ambassador to Paris Sheikh Jassim Al Hegelan asked. "Iraq has trampled Kuwait... it has squandered its wealth on war," he told a U.N. conference on the world's least developed countries (LDCs). Hegelan was called to order for taking the floor out of turn after Iraqi Ambassador Abdul Razzaq Al Hashimi said Kuwait had tried to undermine the Iraqi economy by keeping down oil prices. The Iraqi envoy earlier proposed that Arab countries spend \$1 for every barrel of crude they exported on aid to poor countries. He said this would contribute \$5.5 billion a year to development aid. The figure would rise \$15 billion a year if all members of the Organisation of Oil Exporting Countries (OPEC) followed suit. The conference is discussing plans to help the 41 LDCs until the turn of the century. The Iraqi envoy repeated President Saddam Hussein's offer of free oil to the Third World. He said poor countries only had to ask Baghdad for the quantity and quality of crude they wanted and they would get it free.

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Khamenei declares jihad against U.S.

Combining agency dispatches

BAHRAIN — Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei Wednesday called for a holy war against the United States and said Muslims who die fighting the U.S. presence in the region would go to heaven as Islamic martyrs.

Speaking on Tehran Radio, Khamenei said: "Muslim nations will not allow America to set up its security and defence system in the region."

"The struggle against American aggression, greed, plans and policies in the 'Persian Gulf' will be counted as jihad (holy war), and anybody who is killed on that path is a martyr," he said on the radio, monitored in Nicosia.

America should have learned its lesson from past events and its vulnerable presence," he added. Khamenei's remarks were

much the fiercest denunciation so far by Tehran of the Western-led military buildup. Iran has also attacked Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and said it will observe United Nations sanctions.

The radio did not say when Khamenei was speaking. Khamenei, who took over from the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in 1989, said the preservation of regional security rested mainly on the countries of the Gulf.

"As on previous occasions we declare our preparedness to cooperate with the countries of the Persian Gulf region to restore security and to cut off the hands of those who commit aggression against the right of others."

Khamenei's remarks came three days after Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz met with his Iranian counterpart in Tehran. It was the first such visit by a high-ranking Iraqi official since

the start of the Gulf war a decade ago.

Diplomatic sources said the visit was part of Iraq's efforts to break the economic blockade preventing the import of food and other supplies and the export of oil, its chief source of revenue.

A source in Tehran said Iran had agreed to sell food and medicine to Iraq (see page 2).

"We must inform all Muslim countries in the region that we oppose the American presence... its covetous designs," Khamenei said. "We greatly oppose the demanding, bullying and ugly spirit of American policy."

"What right do they have to say they must safeguard the security of the region, and that the continued security of the region requires them to be here, what business is it of theirs?" he asked.

Khamenei said the solution to the current crisis should be left in the hands of countries in the region.

The Tehran Times said on Wednesday that Iran was considering supplying food and medicine to Iraq and offering Baghdad an unspecified "outlet" in return.

The newspaper, close to Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, published its report as non-aligned and industrial nations argued at the United Nations over whether shipping humanitarian food aid to Baghdad represented sanctions-busting.

Tehran Radio quoted Khamenei as saying: "We are vehemently opposed to the presence of America in the Persian Gulf region as well as to its constantly increasing greed and its shameless policy in the region."

Iraq vows not to bow to U.S.

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq, vowing to retreat from U.S. military pressure or blackmail, Wednesday denounced a speech to congress by U.S. President George Bush and accused him of wanting to take over the world.

"The U.S. president's address is a model speech by an imperialist ruler who wants to impose his power on the world," said Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz. "Most of the globe's peoples, the Arabs in the forefront, reject that and insist on preserving their independence and free will," said Aziz, quoted by the Iraqi News Agency (INA).

An INA commentary, monitored in Cyprus, said: "a hostile evil trend still dominates this man's (Bush's) mentality... and his personal desire to lead the world on his own."

It added: "Bush must understand that threats, betting on the time factor, and blackmail through U.S. decisions issued by the U.N. Security Council will not make Iraq retreat in the face of U.S. arrogance in any circumstances."

Addressing a joint session of Congress Tuesday after summit talks in Helsinki with President Mikhail Gorbachev, Bush said Iraq would be forced to quit Kuwait following its invasion Aug. 2.

"Saddam Hussein will fail," Bush said of the Iraqi president. "That's not a threat or boast, that's just the way it's going to be."

INA, a dispatch from Baghdad Wednesday, said Saddam met a number of air force and air defence officers. But it gave no details of what was discussed.

Aziz repeated Iraq's insistence that it never intended to invade Saudi Arabia. Washington has said its 165,000 servicemen now based there or in warships on the Gulf are needed to deter an Iraqi attack.

"Bush lied... when he reiterated U.S. claims about Iraqi intentions against Saudi Arabia, which is a justification for his military campaign in the region," Aziz said.

Bush prepares U.S. for long stand-off

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush videotaped an eight-minute message to the Iraqi people Wednesday and the White House urged Baghdad to air it within five days, saying the television message would be released around the world after that.

Bush taped the message in the Oval Office at 7:30 a.m., less than 12 hours after a speech to Congress and the country in which he prepared the American people for a long and possibly painful U.S. commitment in the Gulf.

"We expect that Iraq will honour its invitation to allow this to be addressed to the Iraqi people, and we will ask them to provide us an air time within the next five days," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said.

"If after the five-day period the tape is not aired, then we will go ahead and make it available to the world's news media," he added.

"Obviously, if it's aired any time during that period we'll simultaneously make it available as well."

Fitzwater declined to go into specific details of Bush's message, but described it as personal and sympathetic of the hardships Iraqis face because of a worldwide ban on trade with their country.

"Essentially, it repeats some of the themes that the president expressed (in his speech to a joint session of congress) last night," he said.

Bush emphasised that "we have no quarrel with the Iraqi people, that the Iraqi government has forced incredible hardships on the people of Iraq by virtue of their naked aggression against Kuwait, that we are in the 'Persian' Gulf to defend Saudi Arabia, and that we want a peaceful resolution, we want peaceful coexistence with the people of Iraq," the presidential spokesman added.

The United Nations Security Council ordered economic sanctions after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. Bush also ordered a massive U.S. military buildup in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf region

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U.N. to urge immediate sanctions aid

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — The U.N. Security Council committee studying assistance to countries adversely affected by the council's imposed sanctions on Iraq, Wednesday appealed in a draft resolution to all states to provide immediate technical, financial and material assistance to Jordan "to alleviate the difficulties the country is facing through adherence to the resolution 661."

According to the draft resolution, the U.N. secretary general is to "undertake... full assessment in cooperation with the government of Jordan, of the problems resulting from the (Gulf) crisis." It also calls on the secretary general to appoint a special representative to coordi-

ate assistance to the kingdom.

The committee was established by Security Council resolution 661, which imposed sanctions against Iraq for its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, to study requests for aid under article 50 of the United Nations charter.

The draft urged that Jordan be "commended" for the measures it has taken to "fully comply with resolution 661."

The committee's recommendations included requesting the United Nations and specialised agencies as well as humanitarian agencies to help Jordan in its present economic situation to intensify their programmes of assistance in response to the pressing needs of Jordan.

The draft paper expressed con-

cern at the "unique economic difficulties as a result of the severance of the close economic relations between Jordan, Iraq and occupied Kuwait as required by resolution 661."

The draft expresses awareness of the difficult situation of thousands of refugees and displaced persons who arrived in Jordan.

Jordan in August informed the U.N. Security Council that it could lose over \$4 billion as a result of compliance with resolution 661.

In a memorandum submitted to the council then, Jordan said it would face special economic problems within the meaning of article 50 of the U.N. charter. Article 50 allows countries affected by sanctions to appeal the problem with the Security Council and apply for compensa-

Aga Khan appointed as de Cuellar's personal representative

AMMAN (J.T.) — United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Wednesday appointed Sadruddine Aga Khan as his personal representative for humanitarian assistance relating to the crisis between Iraq and Kuwait and in particular the problems of the Third World countries' nationals.

This decision was taken by the secretary-general "given the multi-faceted nature of the problem and the magnitude of the challenge and to contain the human suffering as far as possible," U.N. sources said.

Sanctions panel deadlocked over food

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The U.N. Security Council's committee on sanctions against Iraq and Kuwait broke up Wednesday after efforts to decide how food could be sent into those Gulf countries became deadlocked.

The committee, which must make decisions by consensus, passed the issue of humanitarian aid on to the Security Council. The council can vote on the matter.

"It appears as if a couple of members of the sanctions committee are using the consensus rule to hold up progress, so we want to move... to the Security Council," said U.S. Ambassador

Thomas R. Pickering. He specifically accused Cuba of causing the deadlock and called it "an anti-humanitarian gesture of the first order."

The committee, which consists of the same 15 nations that make up the Security Council, deadlocked on competing proposals on the food aid issue.

The five permanent Security Council members — the United States, Soviet Union, Britain, France and China — wanted to set out general principles allowing food distribution to foreigners and children.

Under the U.S.-sponsored plan, Secretary-General Javier

Perez de Cuellar would send a team to Iraq and Kuwait to see if emergency food is needed.

Countries sending medical aid would be required to ensure that supplies reached the intended recipients instead of the Iraqi army. Cuba and Yemen, however, were holding out for a resolution that would have allowed India to send a ship loaded with 10 million kilograms of food to feed its 140,000 stranded nationals.

Pickering said that once the Security Council approves a resolution defining when food can be sent in, the Indian ship issue can be swiftly dealt with.

Yemen's ambassador, Moha-

mamd Abdul Aziz Sallam, said the U.S. position "is a very narrow interpretation of humanitarian circumstances."

"We would like to have an interpretation which is more generous, which would allow basic foods to be supplied, especially to the weak in society, an to all civilians," he said. On Aug. 6, four days after Iraq took over Kuwait, the Security Council imposed a trade embargo on Iraq and Kuwait. The only exceptions are medical goods and, in humanitarian circumstances, food.

The Philippines also has appealed for permission to send food to about 5,000 Filipinos stranded in Kuwait.

King, Arafat discuss Gulf

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday held talks with Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat on the Gulf crisis. The two leaders discussed "efforts to achieve a political settlement of the Gulf crisis within an Arab framework," the Jordan News Agency, Petra said.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Mudar Badran attended the meeting, along with Arafat's number two Salah Khalaf and PLO Executive Committee member Abdullah Hourani.

Jordan and the PLO have sought a negotiated solution to the Gulf crisis.

They did not attend a meeting in Cairo on Monday at which 12 Arab states endorsed plans to move the Arab League's base

back to Cairo.

The PLO wants an ordinary league meeting originally due in Tunis next Monday to re-examine the transfer. The Cairo meeting voted to defer the ordinary session to Sept. 27.

Arafat left Rabat Tuesday after talks with King Hassan of Morocco on the Gulf crisis and the rift in the Arab League over the relocation of its headquarters.

Arafat said he had briefed the King on the PLO search for an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis and discussed how it was affecting the Palestinian uprising.

The PLO said Wednesday Moscow's stand at Sunday's superpower summit in Helsinki would aid peaceful solutions to the Gulf crisis and the Middle East conflict.

"The results of the Helsinki

summit reflected calls for easing the military danger in which the Soviet side stressed the need to give more of a chance to political solutions," a PLO Executive Committee statement said.

"This opens new horizons to solve the Gulf crisis and that of the Middle East, in particular the Palestinian question which has been burning for dozens of years."

U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev agreed to find a political solution to the Gulf crisis.

The PLO said Washington was "continuing to beat the war drum (against Iraq)... and to persist in separating the Gulf crisis from Palestinian question and to reject an international peace conference."

Jordan urges Iraq to limit exodus

AMMAN (R) — Jordan, expecting a new influx of Gulf crisis refugees, has urged Iraq to limit the flow across the border to 14,000 a day, officials said Wednesday.

"We have asked the Iraqis to allow across a maximum of 14,000 people a day, half of them Egyptians and half Asians," said a senior Jordanian official, who asked not to be named.

The number of Asians stranded in Jordan after fleeing Kuwait dropped to 46,000, the lowest figure for weeks, and authorities began emptying a squalid border camp.

A Reuters correspondent saw hundreds of Indians holding bun-

dles of belongings jostling each other in desperation to board army trucks taking them from Shaalan I camp. The shanty area was cloaked with dust from a duststorm on Tuesday night.

Doctors said 2,000 people had sought treatment for respiratory complaints after the duststorm.

"I've been here for six days with the snakes and scorpions," said Hemant Kumar Jain, 22, who worked in a video shop in Kuwait. "Now I'm just changing from one camp to another."

The head of the Iraqi Red Crescent, visiting Amman, told Reuters Tuesday that about 300,000 Egyptians and at least 65,000 Asians were waiting to

cross into Jordan from Iraq.

Ibrahim Ahmad Al Nouri said a transit camp in Baghdad held 5,000 Indians and Sri Lankans. Three border camps housed another 60,000 from Egypt, Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka.

The U.N. Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRO), coordinating relief work, said tentative figures showed Amman had received or been pledged at least \$85 million in cash and kind from governments, relief groups, U.N. agencies and private donors.

An UNDRO official said the total did not include \$5 million Saudi Arabia said Wednesday it

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Jordan urges better coordination in relief

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday voiced Jordan's appreciation of the various international organisations and donor states which responded to the Jordanian government's appeal for aid to deal with the problem of evacuees and urged further cooperation to ensure the quick repatriation of the evacuees.

The Crown Prince also urged international organisations to coordinate their relief operations for the evacuees in Jordan with those of the Jordanian government and its different agencies and to secure air transportation for the evacuees.

Prince Hassan was addressing a meeting held at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) office in Amman. The meeting was attended by representatives of all local and international agencies concerned with the relief assistance to the evacuees crossing Jordan's borders from Iraq and Kuwait.

Foreign embassies accredited to Jordan were also represented at the meeting. These included embassies of France, Yemen, U.S., Canada, Japan, Australia, Austria, Greece, the Netherlands, Philippines, the United Kingdom, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Bangladesh, Switzerland, Spain, India, Germany and Belgium, according to the UNDP office.

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King to open Arab conference on Gulf

By Lamis Andoni Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday opens a pan-Arab conference of political parties on the Gulf crisis.

At a press conference on Wednesday, Dr. Mamdouh Abbadi spokesman of the Jordanian Arab Nationalist Democratic Alliance (JANDA), announced that King Hussein had accepted to open the pan-Arab meeting.

More than 120 representatives of Arab political parties and popular organisations are expected to attend the three-day conference, which aims at countering foreign intervention in the Gulf. Invitations have been extended to major political parties and leading personalities in the Arab World, Dr. Abbadi said. Political personalities and representatives of political parties from Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, Sudan, Egypt, Mauritania, Syria, Yemen and Iraq have accepted the invitation, he said.

The JANDA, a broad coalition of Jordanian political parties and popular organisations, has also invited Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and the Damascus-based leaders of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), Nayef Hawatmeh and George Habash.

Both Hawatmeh and Habash have not visited Jordan since 1970,

but recently — particularly following the democratisation process in the country — representatives of their two groups have met with Jordanian officials.

The conference, which opens Saturday morning at the Palace of Culture, will be the biggest gathering of Arab political parties opposed to the American military presence in the Gulf.

Organisers expressed hope that the meeting will lay the foundations for a unified Arab popular movement against foreign intervention in the region.

At Wednesday's press conference, Dr. Abbadi was not sure that the Egyptian delegation would be allowed to travel to Jordan. He cited reports from Cairo which indicated that the Egyptian government was blocking the travel of Egyptian political activists to Jordan.

Agence France Presse reported Tuesday that a number of leftist and Islamist were banned from leaving Cairo airport. The international agency quoted Ma'moun Hodaibi, a Muslim Brotherhood deputy in the Egyptian parliament, as saying that an Egyptian delegation which was going to Amman and Baghdad was prevented from leaving the country.

Hodaibi said that they were hoping to meet Iraqi officials and call for an Iraqi withdrawal of troops from Kuwait.

Another member of the Egyptian delegation was the leader of Egyptian Labour Party, Ibrahim Shukri, who has been invited to the Amman conference.

Mideast never the same again, Andreotti and Delors say

STRASBOURG, France (Agencies) — Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti and European Commissioner Jacques Delors said Wednesday that the face of the Middle East would be dramatically changed no matter what the outcome of the present crisis in the Gulf.

"If the forces of law and order win through in this crisis things will never be the same again in the Middle East, and Israel should take note of this, as should the forces which wrongfully

occupy Lebanon," Delors told the European Parliament.

Delors urged European Community foreign ministers, who are due to meet next Monday, to decide how to help Jordan, Egypt and Turkey, the three states hardest hit by the U.N. embargo on trade with Iraq.

The ministers last week agreed in principle to offer help.

"It would be good if on Sept. 17 the community could announce not only the principle of financial aid to these three

countries, but also how much, and on what terms," he said.

Delors said it was important to guarantee producer countries a steady income from their oil so as to ensure development and narrow the gap between rich and poor in the region.

Of \$1,150 billion earned by the 13 Arab oil producers last decade, 40 per cent had been used to buy arms, while only 25 per cent was spent on development.

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Levy says Soviet role welcome

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said Wednesday that Israel would welcome a Soviet role in Arab-Israeli peace negotiations if Moscow ceased arming Arab countries and "pressured" them to make peace.

However, Levy rejected the convening of a comprehensive international Middle East peace conference, which U.S. President George Bush said was a possibility when it was revived by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at the two leaders' summit.

Speaking to reporters on his return from the United States, Levy said the idea of such a conference was not even discussed in his meetings last week in Washington with Bush and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Levy told reporters Israel opposes an international confer-

ence although it recognises that the United States might favour such a meeting under certain circumstances.

"This possibility exists. We live with its existence. We don't agree with it in any way. It is not the way for, the framework for solving the problems," he said.

"We are demanding the elementary thing, known and acceptable to the whole world... direct negotiations" with the Arabs, Levy said.

Levy said he reached an agreement with Baker that the United States would work for direct negotiations. The two arranged to meet later this month in New York to discuss how such talks could be arranged.

"(Baker) will think of ideas. I will think of ideas. There is no pressure for an international conference," Levy said.

In Moscow, a senior U.S. official said Tuesday the idea of an international conference was premature.

"This is not the time," said the official, who was in Moscow with Baker for talks with Gorbachev and other Soviet officials on a variety of issues.

First, the official said, the basis of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians would have to be worked out. And, he said, even if there is a conference, negotiations would be carried out between the two sides.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is opposed to an international peace conference.

"We will not participate in such an international conference," Shamir said last week after Soviet Foreign Minister

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Shortages in Kuwait

BAGHDAD (R) — Westerners who fled Kuwait Wednesday reported severe shortages of food and water.

They were among 440 people, mostly Americans and Britons who left Baghdad on an Iraqi Airways flight to London.

"Things are terrible in Kuwait. There is no food and there is no water and everything is rationed," an American woman told Reuters at the airport as she waited to board the flight.

"We had to boil water from the swimming pool for drinking," she added.

The United States urged American women and children to contact its embassy in Kuwait immediately to arrange for their evacuation.



Handwritten signature/initials

'Iran, Iraq agree to swap food for oil'

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran has agreed to sell food and medicine to Iraq for oil and cash, a well-informed source said from Tehran. Such a deal could puncture the U.N. blockade aimed at forcing Iraq out of Kuwait.

Speaking in a telephone interview late Tuesday, the Iranian source told the Associated Press that Tehran has agreed to an Iraqi request to exchange food, medicine and other essentials for oil and cash.

There was no official comment from Tehran or Baghdad on the reported food-for-oil deal. But the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said it was struck during a visit Sunday by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

Since Iraq invaded Kuwait last month it has sought a formal settlement to its eight-year war with Iran that ended in a ceasefire in 1988. The two countries exchanged prisoners of war, and Iraq withdrew its troops from Iran and dropped its territorial demands.

The move freed up Iraqi troops along the 1,080-kilometre Iranian border for possible redeployment in the Gulf crisis and was seen as helping Baghdad break out of its isolation.

On Monday Iran said it plans to renew diplomatic relations with Iraq.

The Tehran Times reported in an editorial Wednesday that Iran was "studying the issue of providing food and medicine to Iraq."

The English-language daily, which reflects government think-

ing, said "once Iran finalised its decision and starts shipping food and medicine to Iraq, political circles here believe, Iraq will have an outlet in its present straitened situation."

"Iranian officials are convinced that the Muslim Iraqi people should not pay for the mistakes of their government. Iraqi children and women have had no role in the occupation of Kuwait by Baghdad troops," the paper added.

But it made no mention of oil in return.

Facing international isolation and a U.N.-supported economic embargo following its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, Iraq has been desperately seeking ways of beating the sanctions.

Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani said last month Iran would enforce the sanctions. But before the Aziz visit, Tehran newspapers noted that by supplying food and medicine to Iraq, Iran would not be contravening the sanctions, which permit humanitarian aid.

China last week indicated a desire to send food and medicine to Iraq, saying such shipments would constitute humanitarian aid and would not defy the embargo.

Tehran has condemned the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait and called for immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait. But it also opposes the buildup of U.S. and other forces in the Gulf since the invasion.

On Monday, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein sought to punch

holes in the embargo by offering free oil to developing nations. The United States called that an act of desperation.

Cuba and Romania have struck oil deals with Iraq and companies elsewhere are trying to continue trade with Baghdad, according to a U.S. State Department report. The report said some economically troubled Eastern European countries also are trying to maintain military sales to Baghdad.

Aziz, the first senior Iraqi official to visit Iran in 15 years, was accompanied by Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Chalabi.

Iraq had offered to pay Iran in oil for commodities Tehran allowed across the border, the Iranian source said. He added that the Iranians refused to accept full payment in oil, but agreed to take up to 200,000 barrels of refined oil a day.

Well-informed oil industry sources in the region said that although Iran is a major oil exporter itself, it currently has to import about 150,000 barrels of refined oil a day for domestic use.

Iranian refineries, damaged in the 1980-88 war with Iraq, are unable to meet the domestic daily consumption of 750,000 barrels. The oil industry sources said Iraq's Bazargan oilfields, or a refinery in Basra only 20 kilometers from the border, could be used to supply that oil.

Convoys of trucks, used in the war to transport Iraqi oil to Jordan and Turkey for export and now lying idle, "could easily carry 200,000 barrels of oil a day," one oil expert said.

Maksoud says Arab splits, crisis behind resignation

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The envoy of the Arab League formally announced Tuesday that he was resigning because he could no longer represent the organisation deeply divided over the Gulf crisis and the massive presence of foreign troops.

Clevis Maksoud, representative of the 21-member league, told a news conference that he could not reconcile his own convictions with wide Arab acceptance of U.S. and foreign forces following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

He said that he wanted "breathing space" to permit an Arab solution to what he called an Arab problem, including a significant Arab military force to replace the U.S.-spearheaded military operation, which includes some Arab troops, in Saudi Arabia.

The wound inflicted on Kuwait should not lead to amputation of part of the Arab body politic," he said, calling the current inter-Arab crisis an "interruption" to be resolved as soon as possible.

Arabs are losing credibility be-

cause of their failure to act, and should seek a "third way" between accepting Iraqi domination and accepting U.S. military opposition, he said.

He said he wanted to see "a preponderant Arab presence" in the Gulf conflict, adding, "we (Arabs) run the risk of being perpetually marginalised" if there is no decisive action.

He said that he favoured withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, restoration of the former government of Kuwait, withdrawal of foreign forces and a temporary deployment of Arab troops as reassurance to states in the region. He said he wanted dialogue between Iraq and Kuwait.

But Maksoud did not criticise Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, saying, "I do not want to see Iraq ostracised."

Maksoud, a Lebanese scholar who has represented the league for 11 years at the United Nations and in Washington, said he had sought unsuccessfully to resign in August because of personal fatigue and philosophical differences.



Clevis Maksoud

On Tuesday he reaffirmed his resignation, but said he would stay on as the Arab League's official representative until a new envoy was chosen.

Earlier this month, Chadi Kilbi of Tunisia, secretary-general of the Arab League, resigned his post, and some diplomats said he was upset about the decision to move the Arab League headquarters to Cairo.

Maksoud said, however, that his own decision had nothing to do with the Cairo move.

Suspect in scandal implicates Deri

TEL AVIV (R) — A suspect in a corruption scandal rocking Israel said Wednesday that transcripts of an alleged wiretap were delivered to Interior Minister Arye Deri.

It was the latest in a string of allegations that Deri and aides in his ultra-religious Shas Party misused public money and ordered a tap on telephone conversations between police chief Yaacov Turkel and a journalist investigating Deri.

Ilan Hamra, suspected of transcribing a recording of the calls, told army radio he got his instructions from Shas parliamentary aide Eli Tsuberi, arrested over the affair on Aug. 30.

"Eli Tsuberi asked me for a brown paper envelope and put inside two cassettes, the original and a copy. He put in the transcripts, cutting off my company letterhead.... Hamra told the

radio. "I asked him why and he said: 'We don't need the company name on this.'"

"They asked me to wipe the transcript from my computer memory. I wiped it," he took that envelope. His brother Yehuda asked, 'where are you going?' and he said, 'I'm going to Jerusalem to minister Deri to give him the material.'" Hamra added.

Hamra said a court order barred him from describing the tape's contents.

Israeli news reports said Deri is suspected of funneling ministry money to charities which were fronts run by his relatives and that he and his brother allegedly received unaccounted-for funds to buy private property.

State comptroller Miriam Ben Porat earlier this year reported that Shas had nominated for government grants charities which

subsequently passed the cash back to party funds.

Davar newspaper said Wednesday that a new report by Ben Porat said the Shas party gave soft loans to its members of parliament to buy private cars.

Davar said the report had been due out this week but publication was delayed at Shas' request.

Deri, 31, denies any knowledge of wrongdoing and says the police investigation was prompted by ethnic and anti-religious bias against Shas, which represents religious Jews of North African origin.

He has criticised Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Police Minister Ronnie Milo for allegedly leaking police details of their investigation to reporters.

But Deri has denied rumours threats to quit Shamir's right-wing coalition.

Southern Sudanese seek to end war

KHARTOUM (AP) — Leaders from southern Sudan are trying to set aside their tribal differences and band together to seek ways of ending the civil war that has ravaged their region for seven years.

In the forefront is retired General Joseph Lagu, a southerner who fought the government for 17 years and now is the government's chief U.N. delegate. Many southerners hold Lagu largely responsible for the process that led to the current war.

"We have to appeal to both the government and those in the bush for a ceasefire," he told a recent rally of southerners held to inaugurate the peace effort. "We must talk both to our people in government and the rebel areas."

So far, the rally is the only concrete action the southerners have taken, but just the intent to band together is a substantial step forward.

Hundreds of thousands of soldiers and civilians have been killed in the war or died in its accompanying famine, and most experts feel neither side can win.

Several national and international mediation efforts have failed.

This is the first attempt at a solution by southerners, whose lives have been scarred by intermittent war and famine since Sudan became independent of Britain and Egypt in 1956.

At the heart of the current and past wars are the religious and

racial conflicts between the Muslim Arabs of the north, who control the government, and the black Christians and animists of the south.

But the southerners never have been united, even in their opposition of the north, and many believe that the conflict cannot be ended unless the southerners begin cooperating among themselves.

More than 100 politicians from the south are involved in the current search for peace. Many were political prisoners until their release this summer.

Pio Yukuan Deng, the chief organiser, is one of three southerners in the 15-member military junta that has ruled Sudan since June 30, 1989.

Deng, a Christian who served with Lagu's rebels in the 1960s, told the rally: "We must have our say in the peacemaking in this country. Without southerners coming together, peace cannot be realised in Sudan."

Southerners never have united, even in the cause of secession. For 17 years, Lagu led the Anyanya movement, whose main support came from relatively minor tribes in the huge Equatoria region. The organisations' name denotes the poison of the Gabon viper.

Nearly all the rebels of the current Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) are Dinka, the south's main tribe.

Levy says Soviet role welcome

(Continued from page 1) Edward Shevardnadze raised the idea.

But Bush and Baker, eager for Soviet cooperation against Iraq, said subsequently that a conference on the Middle East would be appropriate under certain conditions.

The official concurred. "At the appropriate time, we'd be in favour of it," he said. "It can be helpful."

But, he stressed, the United

States would be the judge of when conditions were right.

First, he said, the basis for negotiations would have to be "substantially developed." And, he said, "the conference would have to be properly structured, moving towards negotiations in a bilateral way."

The idea that the United States would judge the timing, and that the negotiations would remain in the hands of Israel and the Arabs, is bound to please Israel.

Jordan urges Iraq

(Continued from page 1) was paying to help Bangladeshis and other Muslims trapped in Jordan.

Salameh Hamad, head of the government task force handling the flood of evacuees, said Shaalan I, the biggest and worst of three camps in a neutral zone

between Iraq and the Ruweished border post would be shut within 24 hours.

He said the camp would close by Thursday to be replaced by a reception centre to be set up nearby. Evacuees would stay a few hours before moving to centres for various nationalities.

Jordan urges better coordination

(Continued from page 1) A general briefing on the current situation of the evacuees was presented by Salameh Hamad, secretary-general of the Ministry of Interior, who chairs a government committee to oversee the relief operations in the country.

N. Vassiliadis from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) also presented a briefing on the situation, and Dr. Ali Attiga, the U.N. resident coordinator, spoke about U.N. efforts to deal with the crisis.

Representatives of the U.N. Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRO) Philippe Boule and World Food Programme (WFP) Ismat Fahmi also spoke at the meeting.

In his address to the meeting Prince Hassan expressed hope that the resolutions of the U.N. Security Council would not add further burdens on Jordan's economy and emphasised the importance of coordination among various countries and organisations to aid the evacuees.

'Mideast will never be the same'

(Continued from page 1) he noted.

"Some among us, some countries, might have found this to their advantage at the time. But one day or another they were going to have to foot the bill in a different way," he said.

Addressing the same session of the European Parliament, Andreotti said the Gulf crisis could realign the Middle East

power structure, making it harder than ever to solve conflicts in Israel and Lebanon.

"Iraq's aggression towards Kuwait destroyed the hard-won solidarity of the Arab camp and diverted the international community from a solution to the problems of Palestine and Lebanon," said Andreotti, whose country currently holds the EC presidency.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL THE BRITISH CURRICULUM SCHOOL IN AMMAN Is now open for registrations for the September Term 1990

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The School is presently accepting registrations for the September term. The school will also be open for registrations everyday in July and August between the hours of 9.00 and 12.00 noon. The new term begins on Sunday 9th September.

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Tel: 841070

Guns in Saudi town bring U.S.-disputes to surface

DHAHRAN (AP) — The Saudi government has complained to the U.S. military about the growing number of uniformed American troops visiting Saudi towns carrying weapons, officials said.

The formal complaint, the significance of which both Saudi and U.S. officials sought to downplay, comes amid growing signs that the American presence is causing some cultural strain in towns located closest to American troop deployments.

"We of course welcome the Americans and appreciate their assistance but there needs to be more sensitivity," a Saudi official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity. "There is no need to carry weapons into town and we are asking that they not do this."

A military spokesman, Michael Sherman, said all American military personnel had been instructed to, when possible, wear civilian clothes while visiting Saudi towns and to not carry weapons.

He said those instructions will be circulated again in light of the Saudi complaint. But he said it is inevitable that some troops sent into town suddenly or on certain official business could carry weapons.

"There is a terrorist threat and these people should be able to defend themselves," he said. "But we want to keep that to a minimum."

For the first few weeks of the American deployment it was rare to see uniformed U.S. military personnel in Saudi towns. But in the past week to 10 days many units have sent troops into a few towns for supplies they have been unable to get from the military, and those personnel often wander through streets and shops carrying M-16 rifles and other weapons.

That has prompted a number of recent complaints from Saudis to the government of the kingdom's Eastern Province, the northeast sector of the country where most American troops are deployed.

"We have asked that they leave their machine guns behind when they go into town," said the Saudi official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Another Saudi official said the Eastern province government also has been questioned in recent days about American military women driving in the streets. Women are prohibited from driv-

ing in Saudi Arabia.

"They are inquiries rather than complaints," said the official, who also spoke on the condition he not be identified.

U.S. military officials have said women would be confined to driving on military installations and in their camps, but there have been occasions when women have been seen driving military vehicles in Saudi towns.

The complaint and inquiries were not totally unexpected. Both Saudi and American officials have said some conflicts are inevitable as some 100,000 American troops settle in a culture far different than anything they have experienced.

These officials said they have been pleasantly surprised that such incidents have been kept to a minimum.

But in recent days there have been other signs of strain as well in the relations between the American military and their Saudi hosts.

Many military decisions are deferred to the Saudis because of their sovereignty, but Americans have been irritated by a few public statements by Saudi officials

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE	PROGRAMME TWO
15:30 Koran	18:20 Moberism
15:45 Programme review	18:40 Des Chiffres et de lettres
15:55 Children programme	19:00 News in French
17:10 Book of Adventure	19:15 Documentary
18:00 News summary	19:30 News in Hebrew
18:10 Local programme	19:45 Varieties
19:00 Programme review	20:00 Sherlock Holmes
20:00 News in Arabic	21:10 News in English
20:30 Local series	22:00 Half Slave - Half Free
21:00 Local programme	
22:30 Arabic film	
23:00 News in Arabic	

PRAYER TIMES
04:54 Fajr
06:15 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:32 Duha
16:04 'Asr
18:50 Maghreb
20:04 'Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedeh Tel. 810740

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

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Mennonites condemn use of 'food as a weapon'

By Ica Wabbah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The agreement this week between the superpowers that food and medicine could be permitted to enter Iraq "in humanitarian circumstances" was only a reaffirmation of one of the key elements in the United Nations Security Council resolution calling for international sanctions against Baghdad; but the superpower accord could go a long way in weakening the American-led campaign to choke off supplies to Iraq, according to observers.

The U.N. Security Council must define "humanitarian circumstances," but in the meantime some nations and mostly charitable organisations from all over the world had offered their services to people affected by the crisis in the Gulf, namely the Iraqi children threatened with starvation by the tight blockade the United States imposed around Iraq, and the massive number of evacuees that had flooded Jordan since Iraq's takeover of Kuwait Aug. 2.

True to their creed, the Mennonite Central Committee, a relief and development agency of Mennonite and Brethren in Christ churches, has not only condemned the military build-up in the Gulf but also denounced the use of "food as a weapon."

The Mennonites, who have a record of extending food aid to the Vietnamese during the American-led siege of Vietnam in the late 1960s, said "we believe it is wrong to withhold food from people."

"As an agency of Mennonite and Brethren in Christ churches, who oppose war and militarism, Mennonite Central Committee deplores the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the enormous build up of military force in the region," said a statement issued by the committee. "We oppose the holding of innocent foreigners against their will in Iraq and Kuwait. We encourage efforts to bring about a negotiated, peaceful resolution of this crisis under U.N. leadership. We support that which makes for peace and for mutual up-building."

"As an organisation responding to human need in the name of Christ, we oppose the inclusion of food and medicine in the embargo against Iraq. We believe Jesus' words, 'Give them to eat,' is a call to share food with the hungry irrespective of race, religion or political persuasion. Much of our work internationally is aimed at improving poor people's access to food. Access to food is a basic human right enshrined in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. The withholding of food as a method of warfare is prohibited by international law (Article 54 of Protocol II Additional to the Geneva Conventions, 1977)."

The U.N. resolution applying economic sanctions to Iraq and Kuwait, reflecting international agreement against the use of food as a weapon, permits Iraq and Kuwait to receive "supplies intended strictly for medical purposes and, in humanitarian circumstances, foodstuffs." However, the United States and other nations seem prepared to use the withholding of food as a weapon to bring down the government of Iraq, President Bush, when asked whether food should be included in the embargo, replied that he hoped everything would be prevented from entering Iraq. A State Department official said that, while the United States does not intend to starve the people of Iraq, they want to make them tighten their belts over the next few months.

"We believe it is a morally wrong to keep food from hungry people. We call on the international community and the government of the United States to ensure that the people of Iraq and Kuwait are not deprived of adequate food and medical supplies."

In an interview with the Jordan Times Ed Martin, Mennonite Central Committee secretary for the Middle East and South Asia, who came to Jordan to oversee the work of the agency, said that volunteers working for the organisation were providing natural or man-made disaster relief with emphasis on development: agricultural, small industry, education, health, social services.

The agency operates in 50 countries, including Jordan, the occupied Arab territories, Egypt and Lebanon in the Middle East. In Jordan the agency has been working since the 1950s in agreement with the Ministry of Social Development. Support, according to Martin, comes from churches.

In the wake of the Gulf crisis, with the flow of evacuees straining the already meager resources of Jordan, the Mennonite committee, together with the Middle East Council of Churches, the Catholic Relief Service, the Anglican Church, the Pontifical Mission and the international Save the Children Organisation started working with evacuees around Amman, providing them with food and bedding.

The services are provided to the evacuees in the Mercy Camp in Ruweished too. According to Martin, the organisation is prepared to help the large number of people and volunteers bringing in extra volunteers to work with evacuees.

"We realise that the most critical need is to move these people out fast," Martin said. In the meantime though, the agency is cooperating with international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with the purpose to alleviate the misery of the thousands of evacuees stranded in Jordan.

Asked if the agency would breach the embargo and supply food to the Iraqis, Martin said the only way to send food would be through the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) which has already been very active, sending two convoys of foodstuffs and medicine to the children of Iraq.

As far as trying to reach the U.S. government to influence policy-makers, Martin said the agency's office in Washington had met with State Department officials and stressed its opposition to withholding food.

"As a church, the Mennonites are against war in all forms. We are pacifists, we do not participate in the military," he asserted.

Daniel Chelliah from the Middle East Council of Churches said the aim of the council was to coordinate activities and assist people in need through various church groups.

"The council has been instrumental in bringing NGOs together to attend to this problem at the border area and move Shaalan I Camp evacuees to the Mercy Camp," Chelliah said.

The council works in close cooperation with the higher committee of the Jordanian government and U.N. organisations. Help to the evacuees includes providing tents at camps, organising a centralised kitchen that provides meals through the World Food Programme and medical assistance and sanitation and water facilities through the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF).

If needed, the council can expand the Mercy Camp to 20,000 capacity. According to Chelliah, a great deal of interest has been obvious among the global community, with three, four organisations stepping forward every day to help.

The emphasis, as in the case of the Mennonite Church, is, according to the council official, on evacuating people from the camps as soon as possible. But, "we are also ready to mobilise international opinion to assist in the evacuation process," said Chelliah.

After the appeal to the international community, "many countries are willing to provide assistance," say the officials at the council, who are now coordinating with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to speed up the evacuation process.

House extraordinary session ends

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal decree was issued Wednesday ending the Lower House of Parliament's extraordinary session as of Sept. 15, 1990. The Parliament, which went into recess after the end of the ordinary session on March 27, reconvened by a Royal decree in an extraordinary session on June 2, in accordance with articles one and two of law 82 of the constitution.

The Royal decree on the extraordinary session specified the topics and laws to be debated by the Lower House in addition to such questions as the Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine, economic policy, prices and unemployment, the country's educational and information policies, issues referred to the Financial Committee of the Lower House and a report by the audit bureau for the years 1987-1988.

On June 16 the Lower House endorsed a law which exempts Jordanian expatriates and their sons from compulsory military service in return for a payment of an amount which was later decided by the Cabinet at \$6,000 per person.

The Lower House, which was elected in November 1989, is scheduled to reconvene in a regular session in October. His Majesty the King delivers a speech from the throne opens the session.

British minister to assess further aid for evacuees

Masaadeh: delay in assisting evacuees politically motivated

AMMAN (J.T.) — Response to Jordan's appeals for help to deal with the question of tens of thousands of evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait was not up to the level of the human tragedy at hand, and the Kingdom fears that lack of delay in providing help in this matter is politically motivated, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Ministry Salem Masaadeh said Wednesday.

"Jordan is a small country, with very limited resources, living under very difficult economic conditions, and is in bad need of help to deal with the question of evacuees," said Masaadeh at a meeting with visiting British Minister for Overseas Development Lynda Chalker.

In outlining to the British Minister Jordan's efforts to accommodate, feed and transport the tens of thousands of Arab and foreign expatriates fleeing the Gulf, the minister said that the government sought to help the repatriation of these evacuees within the shortest possible time, but at the same time it was struggling to provide food, medicine and shelter to them while they were staying in Jordan.

Masaadeh said that voluntary and charitable organisations in Jordan, foreign embassies and international organisations were doing their best but more aid was required, and Jordan had been promised more help from the



Salem Masaadeh

embassies and organisations to enable it cope with this humanitarian task.

But response is not up to the aspirations and Jordan is afraid that the delay in providing humanitarian assistance could be politically motivated," he said.

Chalker said that her country was concerned over the situation and would do everything in its power to help Jordan.

She said her visit here aimed at enabling her have a close look at the situation of the evacuees.

Chalker said that she would convey her impressions to the British government and would consult with Britain's delegate to the European Community on ways to increase the volume of

aid to Jordan to help it shoulder this immense burden and to help repatriate the evacuees as soon as possible.

Chalker, who arrived here Tuesday evening on a three-day visit, said that she would do all she could to secure British relief supplies to Jordan.

Chalker later conferred with Minister of Planning Khaled Amin Abdullah, reviewing with him scopes of bilateral cooperation in development and economic fields. She also discussed the situation in the Gulf and the adverse effects of the Gulf crisis on Jordan's economy.

The British minister also met Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura, president of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) which is organising relief operations in cooperation with foreign organisations.

Following the meeting with Abu Qoura, it was announced that the British government was donating 500,000 pounds to JNRCS through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as part of Britain's contribution to international efforts to help the evacuees.

According to the British Embassy here, Chalker is making the visit to supervise the British contribution to the relief operation for the evacuees in Jordan and to assess what further assistance was needed.

YWCA appeals to the world to work for peace

AMMAN (J.T.) — The youth committee of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) in Jordan Wednesday issued an appeal to the world YWCA associations and all international organisations and peace movements worldwide to give heed to the calls of children of the Middle East crying out for peace, justice and human rights.

The appeal called on all organisations to listen to the voice of the Iraqi children now, at a time when world leaders are planning a summit conference on children in New York. "The summit will discuss the survival, protection and development of children while certain countries of the world are causing the suffering of the Iraqi children through the indiscriminate embargo on

their milk, food and medication," the appeal said.

In its appeal YWCA said that the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child calls on all nations to take feasible measures to ensure the protection and care of children who are affected by an armed conflict.

The appeal called upon the world to work for peace in the Middle East and the Gulf, and stop all human rights violations in Palestine, Lebanon and those directed against the Iraqi children. The appeal asked the United Nations to lift the embargo on milk, food and medicine destined for Iraqi children, to stop all violations of human rights in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, to find a just solution for the Palestinian problem, to find a solution to the Lebanese crisis, and to be a fair mediator in the world.

Danish church sends aid for refugees

AMMAN (J.T.) — A cargo plane chartered by the Danish Church Aid in coordination with the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) will arrive today with 50 tonnes of relief supplies, worth 1.15 million Danish Kronas. It will land at Amman, Marka Air- port carrying 5000 blankets, 350 port, 24 tons of powder milk, 5,700 kilos of beef luncheon meat, 6,000 kilos of protein biscuits, water purifier tablets and large quantity of syringes for vaccinations (secured through an earlier air lift).

Since the start of the Gulf crisis on Aug. 2 half a million people have streamed into Jordan. Many

of these people have already been repatriated home, but over one hundred thousand more are still in camps and makeshift centres, along the border area with Iraq and in and around Amman where shortages of food, water, medicines and extreme temperatures exacerbate already severe conditions and strain Jordan's already overstretched resources.

The MECC has launched an urgent emergency relief appeal to help these unfortunate persons, many of whom are mothers and children. MECC has bought from the local Jordanian market so far 5,000 blankets, 500 mattresses, 700 tents, drugs, cooking utensils and other relief supplies. Working along with NGOs, UNICEF, and other agencies with the concerned authorities we have attempted to contribute to lessen the plight of refugees.

Drive carefully!

Traffic can

be hazardous

World journalists to visit Jordan

By Odeh Odeh

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A delegation representing the International Organisation of Journalists (IOJ) is due here Thursday for a visit at the invitation of the Jordan Press Association (JPA).

The visit aims at following up talks on the subject of convening the IOJ's Executive Committee meeting here in October.

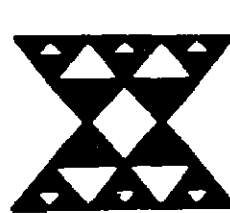
The delegation groups the organisation's President Kaarle Nordenstreng from Finland, its Secretary-General Gerard Gatnot from France and a number of the president's deputies including Bassam Abu Sharif from Palestine, George Izobo from Nigeria and Rafael Mosev from the Soviet Union.

The IOJ decision to hold a meeting in Amman next month was welcomed by the Jordanian government which informed the organisation that it would provide facilities and do its best to ensure its success.

During the visit here the IOJ delegation will meet with senior Jordanian officials and JPA board members to discuss issues of common concern.

The Prague-based IOJ represents 260,000 journalists from around the world and its meeting here will examine a draft for a new job constitution.

Mark On Your Calendar!



Bani Hamida Weaving

designs



EXHIBITION

At the Abu Jaber Estate
September 28 - October 5



Save the Children.

United Nations Charter. We appeal to you as a member of the international community.

— To solve the Gulf crisis through diplomatic channels.

— To give equal monetary consideration to humanitarian needs.

— To attend to the economic burdens of Jordan.

— To implement all U.N. resolutions pertaining to the area i.e. 242 and 338.

— To search for a just and lasting solution to all conflicts in the Middle East.

9,379
leave
Jordan
Tuesday

AMMAN (Petra) — An official source at the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said Wednesday that the number of evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait leaving from Jordanian airports Tuesday was 9,379 and the number of unscheduled flights for the same day was 40.

The official said the process of transporting evacuees from Jordan to their countries was continuing according to schedules presented by the airlines.

Meantime statistics from the Borders and Foreigners Affairs Department at the Public Security Department said the number of evacuees entering the Kingdom through the different border posts on Tuesday was 15,363 and the number of those leaving the country was 17,515 on the same day.

Reports from Al Ruweished border post showed that the number of evacuees entering the country since the crisis began on Aug. 2, when Iraq took over Kuwait, until Wednesday morning was 362,202.

The number of evacuees staying at Al Ruweished camps Tuesday dropped to 21,059 from about 70,000 on Saturday, according to statistics.

British women appeal for objective assessment of Gulf

AMMAN (J.T.) — British wives and mothers of Jordanians Wednesday, Sept. 12 sent a letter of appeal to members of the U.S. Congress, members of parliament in the United Kingdom and members of the U.N. Security Council. Following is the text of the letter:

"We, British wives and mothers of Jordanians, appeal to you to be comprehensive in your assessment of the Gulf crisis, not selective and expedient. Our lives are crucially affected and the survival of Jordan is at stake."

Within days of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the international community rallied in support of "Operation Desert Shield." The subsequent massive military buildup in the Gulf, fear of war, and the breakdown of Kuwait's infrastructure panicked foreign workers in Iraq and Kuwait to leave.

This human stampede is pouring into Jordan at a rate of ten to twenty thousand daily. Jordan, with its population of 3 million does not have the resources to deal with such vast numbers of evacuees. How can you justify the expenditure of \$43 million a day on a war machine while ignoring this enormous human tragedy?

Jordan's compliance with U.N. sanctions has stopped direct trade with Iraq which amounts to approximately 48 per cent of Jordan's G.N.P. The arbitrary and haphazard interpretations of these sanctions have also caused an indirect blockade of this country which will have an even more devastating effect on its economy. Other factors adversely affecting the economy are:

1. The health, education and housing needs of at least 300,000 returning expatriates, an immediate increase of 10 per cent of the population.
2. The loss of tourism which is a major source of foreign currency.
3. A crippling rise in unemployment.

We believe that the economic burdens on Jordan could cause instability and seriously threaten the moderating influences that have made Jordan a reliable friend and ally of the international community.

In recent weeks many have misinterpreted Jordan's position in the Gulf crisis. Jordan does not condone acquisition of territory by force and as a member of the U.N. continues to support the

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- * Exhibition displaying posters on environmental control measures of each sector of the environment (air, land and water) at the British Council.
- * Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajjun — a Roman Frontier Fort" at the Registration and Research Centre of the Department of Antiquities, Jabal Amman.
- * Art exhibition by Salam Kanaan at the Royal Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

- * Lecture, in Arabic, entitled "Agricultural Sector in Jordan... Future Look" by Deputy Mohammad Al Alawneh at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:30 p.m.

FILM

- * Feature film entitled "The Quiet Man" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

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Jordan Times WEEKENDER

Published Every Thursday

Sept. 13, 1990 [A]

Israeli Arab youth learn about their Oriental music

By Miriam Jordan
Reuter

EIN HASHOFET — The Oriental music that blares from cassette players in Israel's Arab villages is all made in neighbouring Egypt, Jordan and Syria.

Many young Arab Israelis would not even recognise the instruments they are hearing. "Arabic music in Israel is in a very sad situation," said Taiseer Elias, an internationally known Israeli Arab musician who has helped run the first music camp for the Arab children.

The week-long camp in Ein Hashofet last month introduced 21 talented Arabs, aged 11 to 17, to classical and Arab music for the first time.

"This programme was very

urgent. There's no formal music education at Arab schools," Elias said.

For the 750,000 Arabs in Israel, surrounded by Western culture, learning about their own music is vital to preserving their oriental roots.

Arab classical instruments such as the nai, a bamboo flute, and the kanoun, a string instrument reminiscent of a harp, are disappearing from Israel.

"All these children might know the sound of the kanoun but very few have ever seen the instrument. In a traditional Arab ensemble, it is always the leader," Elias said.

He said Arab youngsters tended to take up instruments they could learn superficially and then play at social gatherings

for fast cash — the dorbakkeh, the Arab drum, and the oud, the Arab flute or violin.

"No one ever took interest in Arab music in Israel," said Raphi Amram, director-general of the Israeli Society for Excellence Through Education which sponsored the music camp.

The week-long camp at a Kibbutz in north Israel was the culmination of almost two years of planning.

The society, an independent non-profit organisation, sponsored a search for talent among youth in Arab communities. Then two girls and 19 boys were chosen from 70 Arab Israeli youths in auditions last year.

"There are many programmes for gifted young Jewish

children but there was no programme in the Arab community... Now maybe one child will get excited and pursue music seriously," Amram told Reuters.

Apart from practice and instruction in Oriental instruments, the curriculum included the principles of improvisation on which Oriental music is based.

Elias, whose formal music training began in university, criticised the Israeli government for not providing music instruction in Arab schools. But he also blamed Arab families.

"If there children want to take up an instrument, they usually encourage them to play an easy instrument so they can start making money at parties," Elias said.

Arab youths who attended the camp were almost all oud or dorbakkeh players who had learnt from friends or relatives.

"If you practise some months, you can play the dorbakkeh and earn money, so why learn the kanoun which is much more difficult? Why go to conservatory?" he said.

There is only one small Arab music conservatory in Israel — and it is struggling. The six-year-old conservatory in Tashihia village near the town of Nahariya in the north, serves 10 villages but has only 70 students.

"It's not easy to attract them," said Nassim Dakwar who runs the school. He said it was difficult to spur interest in music when there was no music culture in the Arab

villages. "If you don't get exposure, you don't think of music," Dakwar said.

Miguel Harstein, a Jewish Israeli classical guitarist whose compositions blend Eastern and Western music, said Israeli Arab towns lacked musical ensembles.

"There are no Oriental concert series. Parents cannot buy a ticket to the Arab Music Festival. Musical growth depends on being able to hear live Arab music," Harstein said.

Two more camps for the same students have been scheduled for school breaks later this year and in 1991. And to carry their new learning back into the community, the youths are organising an Arab music ensemble.

Comedian hits the roof of the world

By Robert Shelton

LONDON — He has trekked up thousands of feet of steep mountain trails, braving the elements, but this unusual explorer always manages to see the funny side of life. In a recent 37-venue tour of Britain he shared comic tales and dramatic moments with audiences enthralled by shows that blended humour, ethnic music, and a social message.

British comedian-turned-adventurer Mike Harding has been to the roof of the world in the Himalaya Mountains with tape recorders, cameras and Nepalese trail guides, bringing back enough material for a tour, a TV show and

a book. Entertaining audiences with tales of his adventures, Harding also points out ecological problems and he brings to the West an understanding of the people he met in such remote areas.

Now he is off again with his wife Pat to explore the Himalaya. Although Harding draws laughter with descriptions of his encounter with a killer yak which he drove off with his wife's umbrella, he added a new dimension to his show, making conservation an issue. "I've been keen on ecology and green issues for years," he says. "I certainly learnt a lot on this up-country adventure near Mount Everest and Annapurna."

Harding deplores the damage that is being done in the mountain kingdom of Nepal by visitors, trekkers and natives alike. Illustrating his talks with his fabled collection of slides and music he brought back, he resorts to humour again: "We have to bring those people a lot more than our rubbish, aerosols, tin cans or toilet paper. I call it the Kleenex Trail, because the issue is evidence that Westerners have been there. There has been so much written and sung about the destruction of the Brazilian rain forest, people don't realise there is also a rain forest high in the Himalaya that is being eroded and destroyed."

The smell of adventure is in the air when he tells the audience about dodging poisonous reptiles in the jungles of Nepal or climbing the last few hundred metres of the 6,500m-high peak of Kala Patar, below Everest. He also has hair-raising stories of mountain land-slides, road blocks and washed up roads, to which is added the human misery of having a sick stomach 200 miles from the nearest hospital.

Then he beguiles his listeners with a soundtrack that is a weave of high winds, chanting monks and monastery bells resonating across deep valleys, to which is added ethnic folk music he plays on traditional instruments.

"I was not sure my equip-

ment was going to work," Harding admits, "and I was also worried that people might not come for anything so unusual from me." But as it turned out, record audiences showed up to hear him talk about crazy truck drivers high on something that looked like cigarettes but smelled like yak dung, or about a hermit who lived on a diet of roasted barley and water mixed with butter.

Harding pokes gentle fun at the eccentricities of the people he met along the way. His affectionate jokes are never bigoted and he stresses the fact that Western behaviour is no paragon. As he describes one particularly remote landscape, calling it the "Land of the Broken Moon," Harding wonders at the existence of the mountain people who live in such divine isolation. But he cannot resist the jokes. On one occasion, high up in the mountains, Harding's wife obviously did not share his exhilaration: "At that point, my wife flew back to England to see her lawyers, and I pushed on to Katmandu," he quips. It was not all fun. His burly frame dropped to 120 pounds after a 23-day bout of illness (he rails against the endless parties of European trekkers who foul the clear mountain streams).

Harding learnt a lot from the mountain people, including elements of the herbal medicine practiced in the



Mike Harding

Himalayas. He is convinced it has much to teach Western medicine. "You have to forget all about thinking like a Westerner," he says. "The people there seem to be saying to us — 'don't try to understand. Just be.'"

Harding is not the only British entertainer to have felt the pull of the high peaks and the wilderness: British actor Brian Blessed recently returned from an assault on Mount Everest made for a BBC film. The portly actor lost 60 pounds on the trek. The project is a film tribute to climbing heroes George Mallory and Andrew Irvine, who died on the peak in 1925.

Harding says he is also inspired by the exploits of British climber Sir Edmund Hillary and his famed Sherpa guide Tensing Norgay. But to Harding the climb is more than a conquest: He is in-

terested in the people and in learning from the experience. His party enjoyed Zaskar and Ladakh, two parallel mountain ranges in the far north of India.

"I have missed the silence of those mountain mornings when we were in the crystal dawn, the smells of woods-moss and cooking, and the songs of children in the villages as we toiled towards Chomolungma and through the mist-shrouded beauty of the Zaskar Valley. What we did was neither heroic, nor even venturesome," He adds. "It was hard work at times, pretty uncomfortable at others and more than a little hairy on occasion. In the end, it was not the mountain that moved and changed me, but openness and hospitality, and their sense of peace and acceptance impressed as much as the 'abode of Snows', in which they live. It is a rare, fragile and beautiful place."

"I can remember every minute of it. All my senses and perceptions were sharpened and everything around me took on a colour and significance I hadn't thought possible. Images of landscapes and villages are burnt on my mind for ever. But so are the faces of the people I travelled amongst and the friends I made in the high mountains. They were the warmest, friendliest and most caring people I have ever met." — World News



Back in the Himalayas for the summer, comedian Mike Harding deplores the pollution of this pristine environment by tourists and natives.

Teachers survive revolution in E German schools

By Mark Heinrich
Reuter

EAST BERLIN — East German schoolchildren enter a new world of academic freedom when classes resume next week, but their teachers will be essentially the same people who drilled home the Communist line a year ago.

Anxious to keep their jobs and classroom credibility, many teachers took "re-education" courses this summer while more than two million West German textbooks were imported to anchor the curriculum for the 1990-91 school year.

But East German education will be dogged by improvisation and an identity crisis for some time. When East Germany ceases to exist under unification with West Germany on Oct. 3, even the

newest geography and history texts will be out of date.

"Seldom in German education history has such upheaval come into play as that between the start of school in September 1989 and this year," said Education Minister Hans-Joachim Meyer, whose ministry will evaporate on unity day.

"We face extraordinary challenges," he told the country's 200,000 teachers in an article for their weekly newspaper.

For 40 years, East Germany's schools served to breed loyalty to a glorified Socialist state and hostility to a Western world denounced as aggressive, unjust and decadent.

Run for 26 of those years by the wife of Communist leader Erich Honecker, the school system favoured those who supported the party line.

"Getting involved in the FDJ (Communist Youth Organisation) was often more important than good grades," recalled Constanze Schreyer, an East Berlin teacher.

Cynicism accumulated through the years, however, as West German television available in most East German homes displayed a lifestyle at odds with the official propaganda.

In late 1989, frustration with decades of political indoctrination and police tyranny exploded in a popular revolution, and the schools that had underpinned the system plunged into chaos.

Rebellious pupils and parents hounded the most autocratic school principals and teachers from their jobs and subjected the rest to a daily struggle for authority in the classroom. Teachers began reforming

their methods and message but had little but existing Communist texts to work with. Meanwhile, free elections and market economics were transforming East German society at bewildering speed.

Parliament finally passed an educational reform act as the schools limped into summer recess. The watchwords of reform were decentralisation, intellectual honesty, course variety.

Many teachers, above all old Communists who had taught ideologically-loaded subjects such as history and public affairs, took special "re-education" courses at universities and pedagogical institutes here and in West Germany.

"We could not grasp at first that the system we helped sustain, willingly or pro forma, was no more," said Ursula

Tacke, 48, a language teacher. "It was a scramble to adjust."

Her school remains named after a Communist persecuted by the Nazis and a framed party slogan still hangs in the entrance hall.

Margot Ney, editor of an Educational Trade Magazine, said there was no doubt that teachers had accepted the letter of reform, but many, formed by authoritarian attitudes dating to Nazi and Prussian times, had not embraced its spirit.

"Teachers here are still used to being automatically right. It will take time for them to stop treating teaching like a five-year plan to be fulfilled but rather as a give-and-take with pupils as individuals," she said.

Pupils say they will be keeping a sharp eye on teachers for

any sign of the old heavy-handedness.

Teachers' mistrust for the new textbooks still remains. "I don't want to fall into the past openly and admit they were wrong, but I was passing them," said Soren Reckwardt.

East Germany's interim government moved to free education of its obvious ideological baggage by firing most school principals and thousands of teachers found to have been former security police agents or informers.

West Germany chipped in by granting East Berlin 30 million marks (\$19 million) to buy truckloads of textbooks from West German publishers. More than 600 new textbooks by East German authors will be published this fall.

"Misunderstood gender differences — biggest cause for divorce"

By Leslie Dreyfous
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Eleanor and Isaac Cullick are both the kind of people who take time to chat with strangers, but they were barely speaking to each other when their 12-year marriage broke up in 1971.

"He was a lecturer. It seemed that every time he spoke to me, it was a critique," said Eleanor. "I don't think he... was the type of person who could share experiences and emotions and feelings."

"All I ever did was listen," said Isaac, who is remarried. "She was going to have things her way. I couldn't reach Eleanor. It's amazing. People can live together but can't talk things out."

The Cullicks' story is not unique. And in her new Bestseller, "You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation," Georgetown University sociolinguist Deborah Tannen suggests why.

"Because men and women are regarding the landscape from contrasting vantage points, the same scene can appear very different to them, and they often have opposite interpretations of the same action."

No one is to blame, the author cautions — it's just that people of different genders generally speak different languages.

Tannen reached that conclusion after studying hundreds of hours of videotaped conversations between men and women, and between boys and girls.

"Men and women grow up in different worlds," Tannen said in a recent interview. "It's utterly essential that people accept and understand the differences. Otherwise we end up blaming each other."

Over 15 years of research, Tannen said she's seen clear conversational patterns emerge. Men use talk primarily to communicate a desire or goal, while women consider exchanges important in and of themselves, she said.

To a woman, hashing through the day's details often indicates intimacy. For her mate, the ritual may simply seem a drag.

Similarly, she said, "women often feel a relationship is working if you're talking about it. Men feel it's working if you're not talking about it."

A lot of men feel that a woman's insistence on talking things out is like a dog hanging onto a bone," said Tannen, who teaches in Washington, D.C. "But for women, talk is the glue that holds relationships together."

These are stereotypes, but sociolinguists said they apply more often than not. Since the publication of her book this spring, Tannen said she has received scores of telephone calls and letters from fans of her theory.

"Misunderstood gender differences in one of the biggest causes of divorce," said Howard Markman, who directs the University of Denver's Centre for Marital and Family Studies.

"It's a pervasive problem... but couples who learn how to understand each other can successfully improve their chances of having a happy marriage," he said.

John and Kass Patterson

did. The Denver couple took Markman's "premarital rela-

tionship enhancement programme" before they wed two years ago. Today they are expecting their first child.

"A lot of people wondered why we took the course," said Kass.

"But it really helped us get our marriage off on the right foot."

The Pattersons didn't want to waste time bickering about the banal: Finances, tardiness, who interrupted whom.

"Women are trained throughout their lives on how to talk things out and express feelings," said Kass, 30, a legal secretary. "I am still more the one that pulls things out of John, but since the course he's much more vocal."

Each also better understands what the other is trying to say.

"You become aware of the differences in the way you argue," Kass said. "Sometimes there's no changing the other person, but understanding eases the frustration."

Decoding the ways men and women communicate is not only helpful on the home front, sociolinguists said. Gender-based conflicts can be resolved in the workplace as well.

Take, for instance, the way in which a male employee interpreted an order from Barbara Meade, co-owner of the Politics and Prose Bookstore in Washington.

"I wanted him to do some specific tasks having to do with bookkeeping... and though it was understood," Meade recalled.

"But apparently... he thought I was asking if he'd be willing to do it."

Tannen says this is common. Women often couch a direct order in an interrogative phrase: "Would you mind?" Men usually say simply: "Do it."

Both bosses may be issuing an order, she said, but a male employee likely will interpret a female boss's request as optional, while a female employee will often find her male boss's style unnecessarily peremptory.

"It's like speaking English and French. It's not that one is better than the other," said Robin Lakoff, a linguist at the University of California at Berkeley. "They are just different."

Gender studies experts, whose field has blossomed since the late 1970s, said the communication gap is rooted in childhood. Boys and girls generally play separately and interact differently, researchers said.

"Boys' groups are hierarchical and activities-oriented," Tannen said. "Girls' groups tend to be egalitarian, smaller. They tend to have one best friend... and spend a lot of time telling secrets."

When they grow up, women often expect their mates to be that same best friend, which often baffles men more comfortable with locker room towel-snapping than sharing secrets.

Tannen said couples can reach a happy medium with time, patience and compromise. But it will take a lot more to change the fundamental mindsets that separate men and women, researchers said.

"The kinds of language differences, we see, reflect real differences in the way men and women are in the world," said Penny Eckert of the Institute for Research on Learning in Palo Alto, California.

Thoughts for this week

There is nothing so powerful as the truth, and often nothing so strange — Daniel Webster, U.S. statesman (1782-1852).

In politics, an absurdity is not a handicap — Napoleon Bonaparte, French Emperor-General (1769-1821).

Repetition does not transform a lie into truth — Franklin Delano Roosevelt, U.S. president (1882-1945).

I never think of the future. It comes soon enough — Albert Einstein, German-born physicist (1889-1955).

We must beware of trying to build a society in which nobody counts for anything except a politician or an official — Sir Winston Churchill, British statesman (1874-1965).

Jeffrey Lewis

The student identification card

By Maha Adas

You've received your high school grades. You've been accepted at the college of your choice. You have to go through the procedure to get your student I.D., and you've set out with your personal driver to start getting the necessary papers.

New. Are you happy?
Well, this question is a little premature. It is only 9 a.m. on the day of registration.

You've just left the driver waiting and you've just reached the main offices at the university where there's a big group of people who all want to be first in line. Inside the offices are the people in charge who are very busy drinking tea. At 10 a.m., with enough tea charging their systems, the registrars are ready for the first batch of "inferior beings," the students. Of course, the registrars are all in a bad mood. It's been a hectic day. What, with all the times they've lifted the tea glasses to their mouths, who can do anything as energy demanding as carrying a pen, for example?

You hand over your papers as humbly as possible, by putting the papers on the desk and then gradually edging them over to the person responsible.

That person looks at your papers as if he has never seen anything like them in his life... to think he has processed hundreds in the past few days. Then snaps at you because, God Almighty, you don't have a certain person's signature

who happens to be in an area at the other end of the town. When you get to that place your arrival coincides with the tea break at that place. So, you count to 5,000 backwards and wait patiently.

With a scribble for a signature, you run back to the registrars office leaving the driver, yet again, to develop a tan on one arm.

When you squeeze your way to the desk, the registrar looks at you with deep disgust and says, "now we want, eh, your blood group." You rush to the laboratory and the registrars slip out for their lunch hour (which is only called a lunch hour but which lasts approximately 2½ hours on a busy day).

Now in the "pseudoline" you remember that the person handling your papers has the same last name as one of your classmates. Now, to mention that classmate's name, or not to mention it. That is the question?

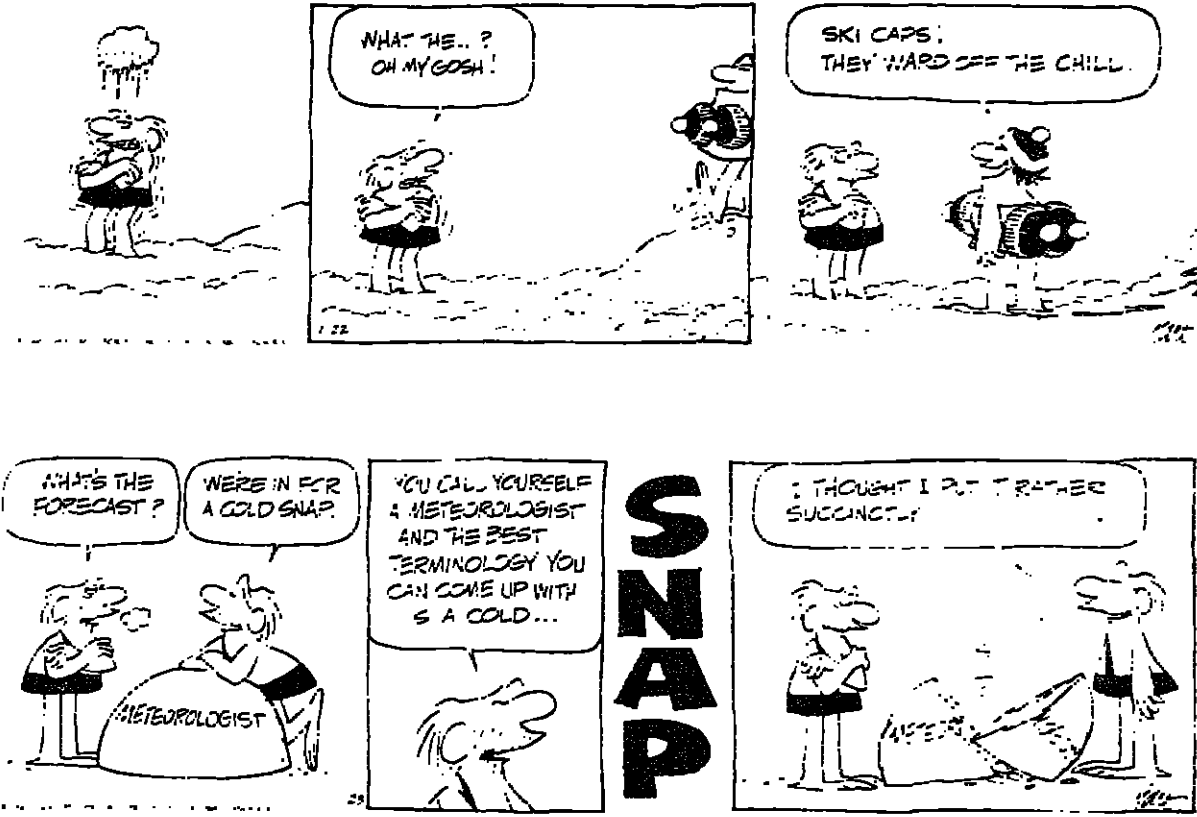
You immediately reconsider mentioning the name, just in case there is some form of family feud between those two people. You are now still in line and it seems like forever, which it is. There are still two days more signatures that you need to get. One by one, of course.

Two similarly long days later after thousands of minutes of waiting you finally have your hands on your I.D.

I wouldn't be surprised if you attach a security alarm to it. Nevertheless the I.D. is finally with you?

Now. Are you happy?
If your answer is yes. Good for you. But I, the driver, am not!

B.C.



Weekend Crossword

THE Sunday Crossword

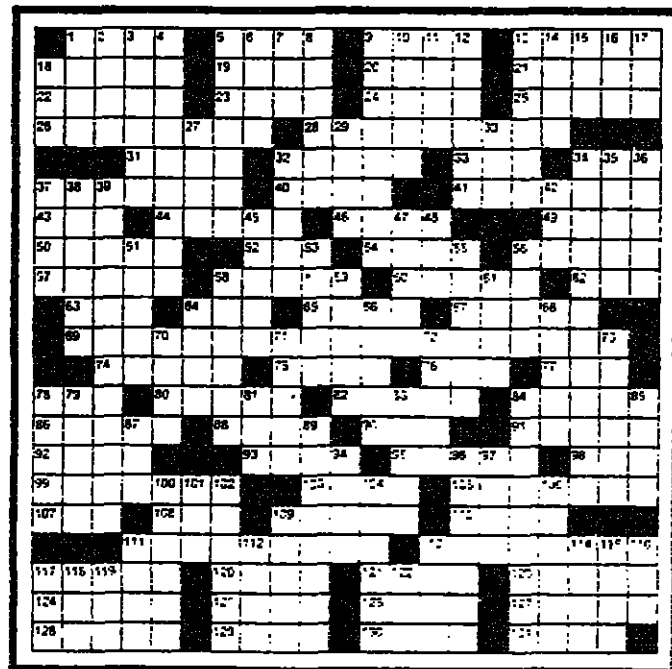
Edited by Herb Eiteneur

ORCHESTRATION

By William Canine

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1-4 Week's Cryptograms

1. He was mainly a very kind king, beloved by his subjects, with many a jaded courtier in the dungeons.
2. A welcome news of war: Frozen saline pours pure molasses over Colorado roads.
3. Zebra hit hand of trapeze performer who wanted to feed him.
4. Cat had this contented reaction after fine supper: "Purrfect."

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. G M I C A M T R W I Z Z Z A O R H A V Z A K E R.
A Y A Q U I L Q U O G O R Z Z I L F E B B T I H I F
Z Y R A Z Z W A Z Z K A I O — By Gordon Miller

2. K I O V S L A V S D O P A N A U S D I N O D T E A G I T
M S O M R B M A T E R R I E D N I O P Z A V — By Barbara J. Rezz

3. J A M N E S S Y B Y W U R H U Y B Y A U I L I U G
O I S I M O R T W A Y R M S I L A G A M I U B Y
A M H M E C M I R E M H E M I N G S I C — By Lou H. Jones

4. Y O D L P R O R D H E S T P I D G H I O Y C H A R D
I S N O T E A N Y N H I S T I L — By Ed Haddison

5. S O L U T I O N S O F L A S T W E E K ' S P U Z Z L E

6. S O L U T I O N S O F L A S T W E E K ' S P U Z Z L E

Midnight Caller

By E. Yaghi

"Midnight caller" is a mentally deranged woman in her middle thirties. She is divorced, never had children (fortunately) and spends her life dedicated to making people miserable.

She is a contradiction of herself. Her personality is a puzzle and it is difficult for acquaintances to pinpoint any particular train of thought. She is a frustrating person to deal with or know and she changes skin or colour like a chameleon.

But "midnight caller" has a unique talent. After many hours of concentrated endeavour, she has almost perfected her talent and turned it into a remarkable hobby. After her working day is completed, "midnight caller" madly rushes home in a nervous state to begin her daily-evening to midnight to anytime in the small hours of the morning pastime. Why is she so eager to rush home? Does she paint, sew, knit, collect stamps, play a musical instrument or listen to jazz, popular or classical music?

As she circles herself in clouds of choking cigarette smoke, "midnight caller" carries on with her evening routine taking time out for a long thoughtful drag on a chain of cigarettes. Her voice either rasps in loud laughter for her crude jokes, or croaks in self-pity for her burdened life to whatever helpless, hapless victim she may corner in her little web known in most circles as a telephone.

No part of the world is safe from the grasp of "midnight caller". No sooner does she dash from work than she telephones all her co-workers that she has been separated from for the anxious period of twenty minutes. These calls cost her extra money because her institution of employment is outside Amman's city limits. Distance calls are much more savory than local calls because they cost more. After many, many discussions to ear-exhausted employees, she then tries her luck at foreign countries. Her ashtray is always full of cigarette butts and her house is always a smoky haze that overwhelms any non-smoker.

Her hoarse voice can be heard many metres around. Her poor father, weary of any conflict with his belligerent daughter, shrugs his shoulders and silently shuffles away to his own apartment close by where he lives with his second wife.

"Midnight caller's" mother is a hopeless case of a superiority complex where she thinks that all relatives, neighbours and their children included are idiots who cannot manage in this world. However, she cannot control her daughter or even get along with her. She cannot even engage in a normal conversation with her offspring for five minutes without getting involved in a quarrel.

Money is never a problem for "midnight caller." Long distance calls pose a special challenge. Although she only makes JD 80 a month, her telephone bills always exceed JD 150. From the total of her monthly paycheck, she brings home a few measly dinars which she squanders on cigarettes. Her refrigerator is always empty and there is never a pot of food on her stove because she's much too busy to cook and besides never has money. She's always in debt and continually begs her expatriate brothers (who work their heads off) to send more money. After all, who will pay her tremendous telephone bills?

Nevertheless, "midnight caller" doesn't worry about money. She never dreams about being rich or even comfortable. She only cares about her hobby which is habitual telephone calls to whoever she can trap.

Many people, astounded by her huge telephone bills caution her to call less, save her money and put aside for a "rainy day." At this advice, "midnight caller" gives a raspy nonchalant laugh and shrugs, saying, "money means nothing to me." Of course money means nothing to her because she never has any.

If you are a friend (?) of this deranged woman, watch out, for who knows, somewhere, somehow, sometime, she may corner you on her "candid telephone" and you may be the next victim of the "midnight caller."

Telephone owners beware!

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Sept. 13

9:30 Classical Music

trouble.

ding British rule after 120 years.

9:10 Sherlock Holmes

10:00 News in English

Monday, Sept. 17

10:00 News in English

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

9:10 Murder She Wrote

10:20 Martin Luther King

10:20 Half Slave Half Free

Blat is a clever and an energetic young black man from up north; a man from New York state kidnaps him and is sold in the slave market down South.

Shooting Stars

A gang of three young men abduct a famous football star... but the star manages to escape and does not tell the police as a kind gesture to the gangster — kids

Showdown in Saskatchewan
During a cowboy Rodeo show a doctor burns to death, Jessica's investigation centres around an escapee from prison.

The continuing is the story of the great black hero Martin Luther King. The struggle is long and difficult, but faith in his noble objectives gives him the push and drive to continue his struggle.

Friday, Sept. 14

9:10 Midnight Caller

Sunday, Sept. 16

10:20 B.L. Stryker

Wednesday, Sept. 19

Wait Until Midnight

A blind woman witnesses (over hears) the murder of her neighbour, the police wouldn't believe her. So she turns to Jack for help.

9:10 Documentary

The Four Horsemen

This documentary focuses on the Third World wars, citing examples and explaining that after 1945, wars centered in the Third World with the full knowledge of the superpowers.

Starring: Burt Reynolds

When BL realises he is hunted by the police, he discovers it is his Aunt they're after; she's in the diamond smuggling business. To get her off the hook, he helps the police nail the gang.

Wild South Under Ice
Different scientists from different countries have conducted scientific research studies in the South Pole to advance man's knowledge of the Earth's poles.

10:00 News in English

10:00 News in English

10:00 News in English

10:00 News in English

10:20 Tanameta

Lion of Singapore

When the love story of Julia is not going well, her daddy decides to send her back to the U.S. in an effort to preserve his business partnership.

10:00 News in English

10:00 News in English

10:00 News in English

Saturday, Sept. 15

9:00 Encounter

Rachel continues her investigation and in the process she discovers a drug - distributing network and now Rachel is in

Aden
In the mid-60's, Nasser's revolutionary rhetoric was instrumental in igniting the revolution in Yemen, thus en-

Foster applies a trick on Desmond and gets the diaries from him and lets go of Desmond. Suddenly everyone thinks Desmond is a mad man and when he does confess to the police, he is not believed.

This week in History

Thursday, Sept. 13

1882 — British defeat Egyptians at Tel Al Kebir, lower Egypt and proceed to occupy Egypt and the Sudan.

1943 — Chiang Kai-Shek becomes president of China.

1955 — West Germany and Soviet Union establish diplomatic relations — their first since World War II.

1964 — Egypt and Saudi Arabia announce agreement of peaceful settlement of two-year-old Yemeni civil war.

1970 — Israel arrests 450 Arabs in occupied Territories and says it will exchange them for hostages held by guerrillas.

1986 — Iraqi warplanes bomb five airfields in Iran as demonstrators seek revenge for Iran's missile attack on Baghdad.

1987 — Report by population group says United Kingdom leads developed world in making birth control available to its citizens.

Friday, Sept. 14

1774 — Russian pretender Pugachoff is delivered by Cossacks to Russian government following decisive defeat and he subsequently is executed.

1812 — Napoleon Bonaparte enters Moscow and Russians set fires throughout the city.

1854 — Allied forces land unopposed in Crimean War

with Russia.

18 — Austria-Hungary makes peace offer to allies in World War I.

1988 — More than 100,000 people march through streets of Rangoon, Burma, demanding that President Maung Maung's authoritarian government step aside.

Saturday, Sept. 15

1777 — Polish Count Casimir Pulaski is commissioned major general in American Revolutionary Army.

1821 — Guatemala is declared independent of Spain and aligns itself with Mexico.

1882 — British forces occupy Cairo, Arab Pasha surrenders and is banished to Ceylon.

1916 — British army uses tanks for first time on western front in World War I.

1919 — China terminates its war with Germany.

1935 — Nuremberg laws make Swastika official flag of Germany.

1938 — British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain visits Germany's Adolf Hitler at Berchtesgaden where Hitler states his determination to annex Sudetenland on principle of self-determination.

1942 — German armies attack Russian city of Stalingrad in World War II.

1946 — People's republic is formed in Bulgaria after re-

ferendum rejects monarchy.

1950 — U.S. forces land at Inchon, South Korean port city, during Korean War.

1967 — Egyptian commander in 1967 war with Israel, Field Marshal Abdul Hakim Amer, commits suicide.

1987 — Strikes by anti-Communist guerrillas coupled with heavy Soviet bombardments shatter lull in Afghanistan war.

Sunday, Sept. 16

1940 — Italian forces reach Sidi Barrani, Cyrenaica, in North Africa.

1945 — Japan surrenders Hong Kong at end of World War II.

1967 — U.N. Secretary-General U Thant calls on United States to halt bombing of North Vietnam.

1976 — U.S. Episcopal Church approves ordination of women to be priests and bishops.

1979 — Afghanistan's President Nur Mohammad Taraki is overthrown in coup headed by Communist Prime Minister Hafizullah Amin.

1987 — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar briefs Security Council on his four days of peace talks with Iraqi and Iranian leaders.

1988 — Iran's leaders bolster links with rest of world as nation moves slowly toward ending war with Iraq.

Monday, Sept. 17

1948 — Sweden's Count Folke Bernadotte, United Nations mediator in Arab-Israeli conflict over Palestine, is slain near Jerusalem by Jewish terrorists and is succeeded by Dr. Ralph Bunche of the United States.

1978 — Egypt's President Anwar Sadat and Israel's Prime Minister Menachem Begin conclude meeting at Camp David (U.S.) with signing of framework for Middle East peace.

Tuesday, Sept. 18

1759 — French surrender Quebec, Canada, to British.

1913 — Greek army surrenders to Germans at Kavalla, Greece, in World War I; Russian offensive under Alexei Brusilov is checked by Germans.

1961 — U.N. Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld, 56, is killed in air crash in northern Rhodesia.

1971 — Egypt and Israel exchange rocket fire across Suez Canal for first time since ceasefire 13 months earlier.

1978 — Egypt's Foreign Minister Ibrahim Kamel and Ambassador to United States Ashraf Ghorbal resign in protest of Egypt's Camp David (U.S.) agreement with Israel.

The Associated Press

Jordan Times

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Transfer of Arab League: Hasty and harmful

THE decision of 12 Arab states Monday to transfer the Arab League's headquarters from Tunis to Cairo is a divisive move taken at the worst possible time. The fact that nine other Arab League members chose not to be associated with such a decision at this particular time is clear evidence that Monday's decision is flawed on every count. In the final analysis such hasty resolutions stand to deal a death blow to the entire Arab League system at a time when the Arab League is so needed and called upon more than ever to play its natural role in settling inter-Arab crisis.

The Arab Order at the moment is under tremendous strain. The Gulf crisis has divided the Arab Nation into almost equal and opposing camps. In fact the 12 countries that decided to speedup the league's transfer were only aggravating the situation and deepening the divisions. With the Arab Cooperation Council, grouping Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Yemen, in limbo, the league could still be a meeting ground for both Arab sides. Of course, there is near consensus in the Arab World that the league has failed to carry out its mandate. But that should not prompt Arabs to kill the league or mutilate it. Rather, what is needed at this critical phase in Arab history is to strengthen the league and allow it to assume the role that it was created for in the first place.

Moving the league's headquarters from Tunis to Cairo now will not strengthen the hands of the Saudi-Egyptian-Syrian axis. It will only push the nine who boycotted Monday's meeting towards more solidarity with Iraq and further polarisation in Arab ranks. Furthermore, the league at the moment has no secretary general and it has lost its able assistant secretary general Clovis Maksood who also resigned. Surely, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak cannot hope "to keep the Arab League a home for all Arabs for all time," if the league's session on transferring the headquarters from Tunis to Cairo was only attended by 12 and boycotted by nine. In the power game currently being played in the region by foreign powers, the 12 cannot "hijack" the league and get away with it. From now, and until the Arab League Council session on Sept. 17, there is hope that reason would prevail and differences over the issue be resolved. And if Egypt wants to assume a leading role in the Arab World it should endeavour to reconcile Arabs not divide them.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily on Wednesday described reactions by London and Washington to Iraq's offer of free oil to the poor nations of the Third World as tantamount to a declaration of war between the rich and the poor and between the good and the bad. By denying the poor nations the right to have access to oil given free by Iraq, the United States and Britain are now imposing a siege on many Third World nations as well as Iraq; and these nations have the right to raise their voices and demand compensation for their loss, said the paper. Of course the United States and its allies will reject such demands since they are not willing to pay a single penny out of their pockets and could resort to Arab oil countries to foot the bill should they be forced to appease the poor nations, the paper continued. It said that Third World nations ought to resort to the United Nations to demand that they be compensated for being deprived of free oil should the sanctions encompass them as well as Iraq, the paper added. As Iraq stands out as a nation willing to do good and help the other nations, the U.S.-led Western alliance is being manifested as a real enemy of the poor nations of the world, the paper said. The paper expressed the view that nations of the world will finally rally to support Iraq and justice, and bring defeat to the aggressors.

Al Dustour daily commented on the restoration of relations between Iraq and Iran describing it as a turning point in the region's history. The talks between the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers which coincided with the Bush-Gorbachev summit in Helsinki came in reply to the major strategic plans being concocted by the big powers against the small nations, and in reply to measures by nations hostile to the Arabs and Muslims and to the sanctions and embargo being imposed on this region, the paper said. The paper said that the Iraqi-Iranian rapprochement is designed also to offset attempts to starve the Arab and Muslim people of Iraq and to subdue the Arab will to colonial whims. The restoration of brotherly ties between the two neighbours in the Gulf has deep dimensions at all levels and is bound to have very beneficial effects on the lives of millions of Arabs and Muslims around the world, the paper continued. Combined together, the Iraqi and Iranian forces can deter any aggression and can abort any conspiracy directed against the Arab and Muslim nations, the paper added. It said that the return of brotherly relations between Baghdad and Tehran can form a strategic balance, countering the massive deployment of forces in the Gulf, and can speed up the eviction of U.S. forces from the holy land.

Sawt Al Shaab for its part said Wednesday that despite the efforts being exerted by Jordan and the international organisations to provide relief services to the evacuees, the problem is being aggravated every day, largely due to the presence of huge numbers of the expatriates and in view of the fact that only 10 per cent of their total number have left the country. The paper said that the presence of the evacuees is not only causing a heavy economic pressure on Jordan, but the evacuees have depleted the country's meagre food supplies and involved Jordan's health, security and other department in around the clock responsibilities. Since the presence of the evacuees in Jordan came as a result of their fear of an outbreak of hostilities due to the presence of invading American forces in the Gulf, the best way to resolve the problem is to end the tension and stop the massing of troops so that these evacuees who failed to leave for home could, if they so wished, go back to Kuwait, the paper suggested. The paper said

Israeli hidden hand holds the strings of U.S. policies in the Mid-East, again

By George Hawatmeh

WHEN Israel strongly opposed the sale of AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia in 1981, and American-Jewish organisations fully mobilised to lobby against the deal, President Ronald Reagan wasted no time in challenging that opposition.

"An objective assessment of U.S. national interests must favour" the proposed sale, he told a nationally televised news conference on Oct. 1 of that year. He had earlier warned the Israelis and their lobbyists in Washington that "while we must always take into account the vital interests of our allies, American security interests must remain our internal responsibility. It is not the business of other nations to make American foreign policy."

Reagan's warning, coupled with other statements by administration officials during that AWACS debate, was seen as a concerted campaign by anti-Israel forces in the U.S. against American Jews' "dual loyalty to the United States and Israel" — to the extent that Vice-President George Bush, with an eye to presidential elections sometime in the future, had to seek the erasure of such "insinuations" by Reagan administration officials. In an address to the third biennial Young Leadership Conference of the United Jewish Appeal on March 15, 1982, Bush said he wanted "to clear the air of some misconceptions." To "accuse American Jews of being more loyal to Israel than to the United States ... (is) a scurrilous charge," he told the delegates. "It never should have been made."

The Reagan years went down in history as the best and most fruitful for Israeli-American relations. And George Bush went on to become U.S. president. But the story of American foreign policy being

unduly influenced by Israel and its lobby in the U.S. has hardly ended. In fact, it is very much on the mind of every Arab whose business is to forecast what the next step might be in America's chess game with the Arabs.

An important chapter of this story is the Gulf crisis of today. While it is true that President Bush has kept the Israelis at bay in handling the aftermath of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, there is every evidence to suggest that Israel and the Israeli lobby in Washington had been heavily involved in the media and political build up that preceded the invasion.

Students of history may recall that it was President Saddam Hussein's threat to strike back at Israel with chemical weapons if the Israelis attacked with nuclear bombs that, more than anything else, raised tension between Washington and Baghdad to an unprecedented level. It was then when Israeli and American officials and media started a feverish campaign against Iraq, trying to discredit Saddam Hussein and portraying him as the "loose tiger" and "new Hitler" that has to be contained. The Bazzof affair, which was a function of that campaign's hysteria, the impounding of Iraqi-bound goods, and the series of Israeli and American threats, direct and implicit, against his country and regime all followed Saddam's famous warning to Israel. The "warning" had become a "threat" by now. It had totally been taken out of context by Western media propagandists.

This campaign alone did not make the Iraqi president order his troops into Kuwait. There were other historical and economic factors involved. What is evident, at least to some Arabs, however, is that the

man had felt already so discredited and beleaguered in Western eyes and by the Israelis that any bold action on his part, as the takeover of Kuwait, was not going to lose him any more credibility and respect abroad. And if this was the case, he now found it the most opportune moment for him to throw all his weight behind all those Arabs who had for long wreaked of humiliation and depravity at the hands of the Israelis and their main backer and financier, the United States.

A symbol of Arab wealth and will employed in the service of the Israeli-American axis had to go. It was Kuwait. The small oil-rich emirate was not only a natural target for an angry Saddam. The ruling family there had also antagonised Saddam to the hilt in their procrastination over solving their border conflict with Iraq and their continuous endeavours to drive oil prices down by busting their OPEC-agreed quotas.

The Israelis, during the Arab summit held in Cairo Aug. 10, threatened to confront the Kuwaitis with concrete evidence that they had colluded with Americans on this issue. The verbal confrontation reportedly led to the collapse of Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad, the Kuwaiti foreign minister, during one of the meetings, where he had to be taken to a Cairo hospital. This Sabah family did despite their knowledge of how the regime in Baghdad felt about Iraq's historical claims to Kuwait and the issue of Kuwaitis not forgiving Iraq's debts to them, which were mainly incurred as result of the eight-year-old Gulf war which Iraq fought, in the Kuwaitis' own admission, on behalf of all Arabs, including themselves.

There are people in the Arab World, some of whom are statesmen and leading strategists, who genuinely believe that the aim of the campaign which started in the West against Saddam was to force him into exactly the kind of action that he took against Kuwait, where the only way out of it would be his overthrow and/or the destruction of his country as a regional and military power. Such an effort needed the power of the United States at least, and preferably the whole world, the Israelis must have argued. They then would be the biggest beneficiary, simply because there would be no Arab power left to force them out of the occupied territories.

Which brings us back to the question of AWACS and Israel's role in pitting Arabs against Americans and vice versa.

Commenting on new plans by the U.S. to sell sophisticated arms to its Arab allies in the Gulf crisis, an Israeli government source was quoted by the Washington Post on Aug. 23 as saying: "To some extent, we have to acknowledge that maybe we were wrong in the past. Maybe Saudi Arabia and the other moderate Arabs need more weapons to defend themselves." The newspaper went on to say: "... For some Israeli officials the (proposed arms) sales are another in a series of worrisome signs of a nascent U.S. strategic alliance with moderate Arabs in the Middle East that excludes Israel."

In 1981, Iraq was busy fighting a life-and-death war with the Iranians, and Saudi Arabia

stood behind Baghdad without reservation then. The common aim was to prevent the spread of Khomeini's Islamic revolution to Arab countries. The AWACS would have helped the two and other Arab Gulf countries fend off danger. That went well with the Americans at the time. But not with the Israelis who wanted to sap all Arab strength through the continuation of war. Having failed at that one, though, Israel tried again by supplying Iran with arms from its own arsenal and later by getting Reagan to send more weapons to Khomeini, in what became to be known as the Iran-contra scandal. The scheme failed, but the Israelis never gave up trying to sabotage improving Iraq-U.S. and Arab-U.S. ties since that period. Up and until the current Gulf crisis.

The issue now, having seen what Israel has and could do to influence American decision-making regarding the Arabs, is now to avert war between the Americans and the Israelis over the crisis. Saddam Hussein has offered unconditional talks with the U.S. over all outstanding problems between them, including President Bush's four objectives. But nobody in his right mind would expect the Iraqi president to budge an inch if the Americans continue to insist on wanting his head as a price for a settlement. True, Saddam Hussein would not take Bush's words for gospel when the latter speaks of a rise in oil prices as a threat to his people's "way of life." Yet the Iraqis would be willing to contemplate a ceiling for the price of oil if they were given leverage over quantities that they can sell. After all Iraqis want to sell their oil, not eat it or keep it underground. Iraq also has expressed readiness to withdraw from Kuwait

if an international conference is held to get the Israelis to withdraw from occupied Arab territories and Syria to leave Lebanon, both being legitimate demands and internationally sanctioned.

The U.S. cannot have its cake and eat it too. It has to see the need for pressuring the Israelis into withdrawing from the occupied territories, especially when Saddam's demand on this point also implies a de facto recognition of the state of Israel. Mrs. Thatcher can continue to call Saddam Hussein a "despot" and a "tyrant." For she does not know any better in international politics. But the truth of the matter is that the West can literally turn Saddam's rule into a democracy if its leaders recognise and accept his Gaullist-type nationalism and treat him with respect and understanding. After all, the man is not anti-West in nature (earlier in his career he was accused of being British agent and later as America's man in the Middle East). He is also progressive, secular and believes in much of the Western way of life.

Saddam would have no trouble co-existing with other regimes and countries in the region, provided that they do not conspire against and threaten him and his country. True, he will never want to see the Sabahs go back to their old palaces in Kuwait, but who in the world would not accept the removal from power of a hundred or so rich sheikhs in exchange for the prevention of devastating war and bringing about lasting peace and stability to this volatile and chronically unstable region?

"We are looking for some sanity here," said His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan recently. Will anyone listen?

Syria shifts boats to Western stream in Gulf crisis

The following article by Susan Sachs, "Middle East Crisis: Syria Bending to the West in Gulf," appeared in the Friday Aug. 31, 1990 edition of the Nassau and Suffolk edition of Newsday:

DAMASCUS — When the United Nations voted economic sanctions against Iraq three weeks ago, Syria's normally taciturn President Hafez Al Assad allowed himself to gloat. "He reminded us that Syria cut off Iraq's oil pipeline back in 1983," recalled a senior Western diplomat here. "He told us, 'Syria already has an economic embargo against Iraq. Now you see what we've been warning you about for the last 10 years.'"

The Gulf crisis has rearranged many old alliances in the Middle East. But no change is more striking than the emergence of anti-American Syria as the newly cooperative partner of the United States and its moderate Arab allies. In their hostility toward Iraq, say diplomats in Damascus, Assad and the West have found common ground.

"He doesn't like it that Saddam

Hussein has broken the rules of the game," said Edward P. Djerejian, the U.S. ambassador to Syria, who has made rapprochement with the hardline socialist regime his chief goal.

The invasion and annexation of Kuwait have created a situation that destabilises the region in such a way that can threaten Syria's own security, vis-a-vis Israel, if there is a big war."

After long years as the odd man out in the Arab World, alone in supporting Iran in its eight-year war with Iraq, Syria now appears the very model of a team player.

After voting with the Arab League majority to condemn the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Assad sent about 3,000 Syrian soldiers to join Egyptian and Moroccan troops in an Arab military force in the Gulf. The soldiers may be a token force of Assad's 400,000-strong army, but they theoretically could end up fighting alongside Americans against an Arab foe.

A short time ago the government-controlled media routinely divided the Arab World into "progressive" and "reactionary" regimes and exoriated Egypt as a U.S. puppet for its 1979 peace treaty with Israel. But in the Gulf crisis Assad has stood squarely behind Egypt and accepted Saudi Arabia's request for the deployment of U.S. troops.

Even Assad's reputation as a dangerous sponsor of terrorism is undergoing rehabilitation. Britain severed relations with Syria in 1986, after Syrian diplomats were implicated in the foiled bombing of an El Al passenger plane out of London. But this week seven British men who fled Iraq into Syria were welcomed with enthusiasm and great fanfare. "They really do want to make a good impression with the Brits," said a Western diplomat who observed the welcoming ceremony.

Assad's apparent warming toward the West doesn't necessarily signal a change of heart or ideology. Diplomats with long experience in the murky currents of Middle East politics say the iron-fisted Syrian leader is acting out a cold pragmatism that only looks like moderation.

"The Syrians are reacting to the actual event," said an East Bloc diplomat, noting that Syria was obliged to take a position in the Gulf conflict because it shares a long border with Iraq. "Their position is based solely on their own interests — that if Saddam Hussein gets away with what he did, the whole system of Arab relations would collapse, and there would be no telling who would be the next target."

Outwardly, Assad appears to be unquestionably Assad territory. Billboard-sized pictures of the balding leader grace every other building and every hotel and office lobby. But like other Arab leaders, Assad is aware that popular opinion favours Saddam Hussein in his confrontation with the rich Kuwaiti emirate.

So the regime is hedging its bets. The state-controlled media carefully explain each day that Syria is not fighting a brother Arab country, but is rescuing it from the consequences of its own mistakes — "protecting Iraq against its will," as one newspaper put it. Even Hussein gets fairly evenhanded treatment in the press, where he is mentioned by name and proper title — a big change from the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, when he was vilified daily as a tyrant.

There are signs the public relations campaign might not work. Hussein supporters in eastern Syria, along the Iraqi border, demonstrated in the streets last weekend, according to an Associated Press report. The report said Syrian troops sent into quell the demonstrations killed many pro-

testers, although Western diplomats in Damascus said they did not believe that any violence took place.

"Assad is keeping one foot in each camp," said a Damascus civil engineer who, like most ordinary Syrians, was afraid to be quoted by name. "He's being very clever because he knows that 80 per cent of the people support Saddam against the forces of foreign intervention."

During the past two years Syria and the United States have taken small but meaningful steps to thaw what had been an icy relationship. Where previous U.S. ambassadors had trouble getting an appointment with the Syrian foreign minister, Djerejian and a team of visiting congressmen have met Assad personally about 20 times.

Both the United States and Syria supported legislative reforms for war-torn Lebanon, where Syria asserts a right to keep troops and enforce order. Assad remains virulently anti-Israel, but some movement is perceptible even in that touchy domain. "Although his basic position haven't changed," Djerejian said, "I see areas of flexibility that weren't there before."

Like other Arab states, Syria has no special love for Kuwait or its ousted rulers, the Al Sabah family. Kuwait was one of the first to renege on an Arab League pact that required oil-rich Gulf states to give financial aid to countries on the front line of the conflict with Israel. Most Syrians have not forgotten.

"Let's face it," said Atif Matouk, editor of the government-controlled Syria Times newspaper. "Nobody liked them." But Syria had been quietly mending fences with moderates such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia, which continued to subsidise the Syrian economy after the Arab League pact expired.

A more basic motivation in Assad's opening to the West is economic. In the past few years the Soviet Union has tried to exorcise itself from the role of Syria's main financial benefactor. While the Soviets still arm the Syrians, they do it on a cash, not credit, basis. With the Syrian economy in deep trouble, diplomats say, Assad is moderating some of his policy stands in an effort to gain access to Western technology and markets.

The Gulf crisis provided a convenient showcase for Syria's new image. Assad "has hooked Syria to a powerful axis," said Djerejian, who sees a full-blown political realignment occurring in the Middle East as Damascus, Cairo and Riyadh begin working as a team.

LETTERS

Arab money paid to deprive Arabs of dignity

To the Editor:

THE Arab states of the Gulf have recently responded positively to a request made by United States President George Bush to share the cost of the U.S.-led foreign troops presence in the Gulf. The Saudi response was voiced during a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker who ended a Gulf tour last week to raise funds for the "Desert Shield" military operation, spearheaded by the U.S. The approval by Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries to cover the major part of the \$12 billion bill, needed to finance the expenses of the deployment of foreign troops in the Gulf shows clearly that the Arab states of the Gulf can by no means serve as guardians for Arab wealth, nor as custodians of the holy shrines, which have been desecrated by American troops and their NATO allies.

The financial pledge made by the oil-rich Gulf countries towards the "Desert Shield Operation", is sufficient, if invested in Arab development projects, to eradicate poverty in the Arab world. But unfortunately Arab funds are being disbursed to implement evil plans and colonial conspiracies, aimed at enhancing Arab divisions and maintaining weak Arab entities, unable, even, to defend themselves, let alone the Arab wealth, which is being employed nowadays by a handful of leaders to serve American and Western interests in the region and to strike hard at the only Arab force which can defend Arab causes. It is no secret that the unfair distribution of Arab wealth itself was behind the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait, which was prompted by Kuwait's refusal to settle its territorial and financial dispute with Iraq by peaceful means.

Although not in power anymore, Kuwaiti leaders pledged to pay \$5 billion towards the cost of the Desert Shield Operation in the Gulf, ignoring or intentionally overlooking the fact that the American and Western forces didn't come to defend them, but rather to control oil wells and loot Arab wealth.

The Gulf crisis, difficult as it is, has exposed these America's true face and unveiled its real intentions. The whole Arab nation knows well now that those America's puppets are ready to sacrifice their nations' interests and wealth, just to remain in power. The Arab countries of the Gulf have proved again that they are ready to ally themselves with the imperialist forces rather than with their Arab nation. Once approached by some sister-Arab countries encountering hard economic times, these same Gulf countries provided very little, if any, support. Until recently, the toppled Kuwait crown prince was saying that his country wouldn't be giving any aid to Jordan because of its pan-Arab stand. "If the emiri regime restores power in Kuwait, Jordan will not be getting any aid from Kuwait," the prince said. What aid is this ousted prince talking about? Does he think that Jordan is ready to compromise on its principled pan-Arab stand in return for a handful of dollars? If he thinks that Jordan will do so, he is surely, mistaken. Jordan will remain committed to its pan-Arab stand and will continue to work hard to find a pan-Arab solution to this inter-Arab affair, even, if Jordan's political move will not please the sheikhs of Kuwait.

J. Azzah
Amman.

LETTERS

Whose peninsula is it?

To the Editor:

AS an American citizen working in the Middle East, and going back home, I would like to say that the dangerous and critical conditions now-a-days in the Arabian Gulf, and the widely open aggression of the United States of America, against Iraq, and the Arab Nation, have raised the following important question: To whom does the Arabian Peninsula belong? Does it really belong to the Arab people of its countries or does it belong to the people of United States?

In case of the latter, the name of that peninsula should be changed to: The American Peninsula of the Middle East. Therefore, Muslims all over the world, have to be notified, that from now on, the application for a visa, for the purpose of pilgrimage to Mecca, should go through an American consulate. These will be the orders issued by President Hajji Bush.

The following poem, which exactly fits President Saddam Hussein, and the present circumstances, was written by the American writer, Hamilr Garland, who died at the beginning of this century:

Do you fear the wind
Do you fear the force of the wind
The slash of the rain?
Go face them and fight them.
Be savage again.
Go hungry and cold like the wolf.
Go weak like the crane;
The palms of your hands will thicken,
The skin of your cheek will tan,
You'll grow ragged and weary and swarthy,
But you'll walk like a man.

George Gordon
25655 Greenfield Dr.
Laguna Niguel
CA 92677

Drive carefully!
Traffic can be hazardous

Travanti sheds 'the series' on the London stage

By Matt Wolf
The Associated Press

LONDON — His fame in the U.S. television show *Hill Street Blues* may have landed Daniel J. Travanti a part on the London stage, but he does not like being reminded of what he calls "that series."

"I will not say its name, and I will not say that character," said Travanti, who played Capt. Frank Furillo in the hit TV police series which ended production in 1987.

But celebrity, he admits, has its rewards. "If I had not had that success, I wouldn't have been asked to do this."

As a result, TV's tightly wound precinct captain can be seen nightly at the Ambassadors Theatre sporting an English accent and aristocratic garb in the long-running play *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*.

Since June 18, he has been acting the Vicomte de Valmont in Christopher Hampton's award-winning tale of sexual cunning among the French haut monde, inspired by Choderlos de Laclos' 1782 novel.

The play, now in its sixth year, transferred to Broadway in 1987, and spawned the hit 1988 film *Dangerous Liaisons*, with John Malkovich as Valmont.

"I'm all trussed up, and I'm pouring sweat," Travanti said of the assignment, in which he is contracted through Sept. 29.

"Here I am doing a play that's more demanding than anything I've ever done, and on top of everything else, I'm fighting three-and-a-half minute — sometimes four-minute — fight with a 29-year-old, and I'm 50," he said early in the virtual stream-of-consciousness monologue that constitutes an interview with him.

"It's a good thing I'm this healthy and sober and clear and have strong legs and all this energy," he said, sitting in the theatre auditorium one recent afternoon before rehearsal.

As the actor makes clear, such was not always the case. After a promising beginning on the stage in regional theatres around the United States, he took to drink and only faced up to his alcoholism after suffering a breakdown on tour in the paly, Twigs, in 1972.

A 1977 season at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego

gave him renewed confidence, but he had to wait until Hill Street was history before he could tackle the stage again.

"There was very little chance of (theatre) while I was doing the series," he said of a schedule that left him just over three months off per year. "There wasn't enough preparation time plus playing time."

The *Liaisons* offer came from the British production's U.S. producer, Frank Gero, who met Travanti 32 years ago in their hometown of Kenosha, Wisconsin.

"I said, 'sure I'd consider it. How long and how much?'" Said Travanti, adding with a laugh that he knew the salary was "not going to be much."

There were other enticements. "Think of the exotic situation," he said. "How many people get asked to go to the West End in an exquisite production? We already know all its strengths. We know there are no flaws to speak of."

Travanti's commitment to a film starting Oct. 8 means he cannot stay on in London, but he is considering doing a short tour as Valmont around Europe in 1992.

The casting has had the desired effect at the London box office. Gero said grosses increased by almost 25 per cent in Travanti's first week.

The show is now playing to 75-80 per cent capacity, well above the 54 per cent break-even. Travanti's arrival follows a slack spring during which, Gero said, attendance "was terrible for everybody."

The star, for his part, hopes to continue working on stage.

"Now I've got some opportunities, and so what if I'm 50 years-old?" Travanti said. "There's still time. I've got 10 good years to play the great roles."

None of which, he believes, are on television.

"I will not do a crime of the week, a social disorder of the week, or a disease of the week," said Travanti, "and there is almost nothing else to choose from."

"They talk about an important American mini-series, and I say, 'read my lips. Let me explain something to you. There is no such thing as an important American mini-series.'"

"There never has been," he said, "and you can quote me on that."

Bastille Opera besieged

By Clare Pedrick

PARIS — Its unkindest critics have likened it to a hippopotamus sitting in a half-size tub. Others have seen it as yet another monument to the ego of French President Francois Mitterrand, also responsible for the Louvre's glass pyramid and the gargantuan Great Arch at La Defense, in the west of Paris. Rumour has it that the judges in charge of choosing a design from 750 entries managed to mix up the plans and inadvertently awarded the contract to the wrong architect, Uruguayan-born Canadian Carlos Ott.

Besieged by criticism and controversy, the Bastille Opera has gone off to an inauspicious beginning.

Yet like it or hate it, it is hard not to talk of the new \$45 million home of the Paris Opera in superlatives. The ultra-modern glass and concrete half cylinder which towers over the Place de la Bastille is the biggest opera house in the world. It has the largest computerised gantry, the most extensive stage space, and thanks to its size and technology, the biggest potential in terms of performances. When it is finally working at full steam, it will be capable of staging 250 different operatic productions a year. A dazzling array of auxiliary rooms and halls designed for concerts, recitals and readings will push the figure of total performances up to 500.

But despite its technology the opera has had trouble getting into gear. Officially inaugurated in July 1989 to mark the bi-centenary of the French Revolution, the first

production was not staged until March 1990, and the new opera closed its doors again in May for a seven-month break until November.

The reason for closing so soon after opening is to sort out what Director-General Georges-Francois Hirsch describes as some of the building's "teething problems" and to carry out a full battery of tests on its bewildering array of technological gadgets, some of which have not been behaving as they should.

There have been hiccups with the technology in the gantry and problems with the remote-controlled trolleys designed to shift scenery. There have been difficulties with the synchronisation of the computer-controlled elevators which should, in theory, allow the central stage to be arranged on several levels. The restaurant on the panoramic 7th floor has yet to open because no-one has been able to work out a way of stopping diners who are not ticket-holders from gaining access to the auditorium. The "salle modulable," a separate stage area for more contemporary and experimental works, is still a building site. The stage-set and costume workshops have yet to operate.

In spite of the deluge of criticism the new building has attracted, Hirsch remains proud of the fact that it managed to open on schedule. "I was determined not to delay the opening in order to avoid a loss of credibility," he said, swigging Evian water from a bottle in his vast high-tech office.

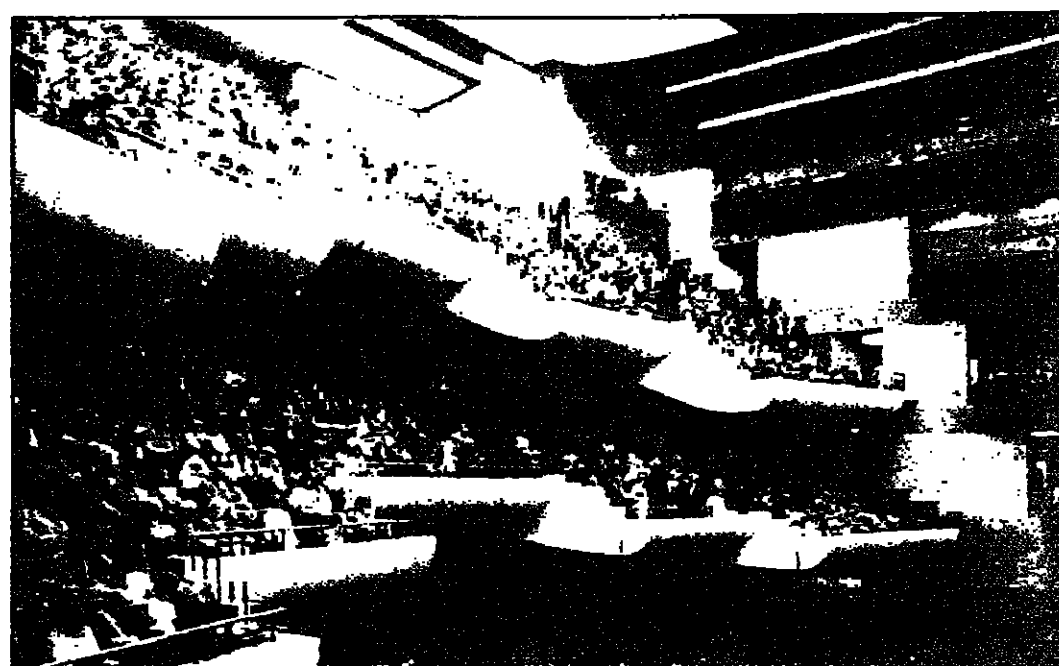
Hirsch has a point: more than once it looked like the

Bastille Opera would never be born. It is eight years since Mitterrand announced his plan to replace the city's elegant but outmoded old opera house, the Palais Garnier, with a new building that would be "modern, comfortable, and affordable," on the site of a disused railway station in the Place de la Bastille (the famed location of a fortress stormed by French revolutionaries in 1789).

For years the project has been plagued by political wrangling and artistic bickering. Plans have been changed, scrapped and redrawn. Many of the key figures in at the beginning have left — some fired, other walking out in a fit of pique. The problem began a year after building got under way in 1985, when then-Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's right wing government ousted the Socialists from power.

Chirac badly wanted to scrap the project altogether, but advisors told him it was far too advanced. Endless discussions followed about how the plans could be changed. One idea was to convert the costume and set-design workshop into a hotel complex. Another proposal was to drop the experimental "salle modulable," the theatre space that can be altered by moving the position of the state at will. In the end, the Socialists came back in after two years and set about changing all the alterations back to the original model.

As his parting shot, days before the right was voted out, Chirac named the new opera's music director as Daniel Barenboim, who had



Although it was built to handle 250 different operatic productions a year, the Bastille Opera fixed.

directed the Orchestre de Paris for 15 years. In January 1989, after announcing a programme which was to open with Don Giovanni, Barenboim was summarily dismissed from his post by the opera's new president, Pierre Berge, the business head of the Yves Saint-Laurent empire and a long-time friend and supporter of Mitterrand. With Barenboim went a host of artistic and managerial staff.

Barenboim's replacement is Myung-whun Chung, a 37-year-old Korean who did most of his training in New York and who is better known in the U.S., Italy and Germany than in France. Chung has a reputation as a resilient character and critics predict his considerable experience directing lyrical works in Europe and at the New York Metropolitan will stand him in good stead when it comes to surviving the notoriously difficult world of the Paris Opera with its long tradition of clashes, strikes and disputes.

After an initial gaffe when Chung publicly asserted it would be a miracle if the opera opened on time, critics have been enthusiastic about his declared policy of giving space to works by French composers and to contemporary and experimental productions.

Director Hirsch, the former head of the Theatre des Champs Elysees and son of Georges Hirsch who ran the Paris Opera in the late 1940s and 1950s, predicts it will be five to six years before the building can operate at full potential. But he is optimistic that, given time, Mitterrand's dream of a grand-scale opera house will be fulfilled.

"The difficulties we are having at the moment are

nothing more than teething problems, but the basis is sound," he said. "It is a building that has the capacity to put on a different production almost every day, with excellent acoustics and an auditorium which has 2,700 seats where everyone can see the stage perfectly, regardless of whether they are sitting in the most expensive or cheapest seat."

"It is going to be a great populist opera house, in the sense that it will not just appeal to the traditional opera-going public," he added. "It will also attract audiences who respond to a different kind of programme. The idea is to draw in people who may never have been to an opera in their lives before."

Seat prices are certainly more affordable than those in many opera houses, ranging from a top rate of \$67 down to \$8. Those in the cheapest seats will never be further than 35 metres (130 feet) from the stage and will not have to pay for their thriftness by being stuck behind a pillar.

The same policy has been pursued by acoustics expert Helmut Muller who has carried out exhaustive studies on scaled models to ensure that the sound quality will remain more or less uniform throughout the auditorium. After the building was finished, Muller ordered one of the balconies to be ripped out in order to improve the evenness of the sound. Choir-master Andrea Giorgi has judged the acoustics as having the perfection of a compact disc.

It is hard not to be impressed by the dimensions of the building. The stage, the largest in the world, can be automatically narrowed or widened. The main prosc-

nium is extended by nine off-stage spaces to the sides and rear, almost as big as the stage itself, allowing the storage of nine different sets.

To the rear is a rehearsal stage identical to the real one, so performers can get a feel of what it will be like on the big night. There are three rehearsal rooms for orchestra, two for ballet, two for chorus and various studios where singers and instrumentalists can practise alone or in groups.

The amphitheatre, a high-tech version of its Greek forerunner, built in white marble, grey granite and black wood, will be used for recitals, exhibitions, lectures, film shows and some dance, though full-scale ballet productions will be staged in the old Garnier Opera. One plan is to stage lunchtime concerts here. Eventually, the goal is to have the opera house open from 9 a.m. until midnight, with a panoply of auxiliary events and programmes. Alongside the performance of a major work, related "side shows" would be staged.

With a first-year budget of close to \$100 million (\$78 million of which is a state subsidy) the Bastille Opera can afford to be ambitious in its programming. "We have to build up a repertoire of the kind of works that are staged in every opera house throughout the world, but we also want to put on more experimental and contemporary works," said Hirsch. "Another important function of this building will be as a place to train young musicians, technicians, directors, stage designers, and of course singers. We want to bring young singers here so they can work alongside the great established stars" — World News Link.

Dame Joan Sutherland to retire on home stage

By Robert Woodward
Reuters

SYDNEY — Dame Joan Sutherland, one of the great sopranos of the 20th century, will make her farewell operatic performance her next month — saying goodbye to the stage in the town where she was born 63 years ago.

The Australian diva, idolised as "la stupenda" by the audience at Milan's La Scala, is due to end her career at the Sydney Opera House on Oct. 2 with a performance of Meyerbeer's *Les Huguenots*.

"I feel it's been such a wonderful career I don't want to go on until somebody starts saying 'I do wish the old girl would get off, she's not what she used to be,'" Sutherland said recently.

"I've got to an age where I don't want that routine or that discipline any more. I want to do things that other people count as everyday," she told a radio interviewer.

Sutherland is ranked with Maria Callas as the most important female influence on opera since World War II, enlarging the repertoire of the soprano to include "coloratura" roles forgotten since the 19th century.

In the 31 years since she stunned London's Covent Garden with her performance in the title role of Donizetti's *Lucia Di Lammermoor*,

Sutherland has been idolised for her powerful voice and Wagnerian stage presence.

"I have never heard such beautiful singing," violinist Sir Yehudi Menuhin said in a letter to Sutherland after hearing her song in London.

Increasing problems with arthritis — which will require a lift to be installed in her home in Montreux, Switzerland — and fears that her voice was showing its age persuaded Sutherland to retire.

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke is scheduled to attend a farewell supper after her final performance.

Born on Nov. 7, 1926, Sutherland was raised by her mother after her father, a Scottish immigrant, died when she was six. She inherited her mother's fine voice but was sent to secretarial college before being allowed to start a singing career.

Sutherland made her stage debut in Sydney in 1951. However, Australia before the days of the Sydney Opera House had limited opportuni-

ties for a budding soprano and she left for London.

After studying at the Royal College of Music, Sutherland was hired at £10 (now \$19) a week by the Covent Garden Company. She made her British debut in Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, in October 1952.

By then she was being coached by conductor Richard Bonynge, who she married in 1954.

"I first heard her voice in 1947 or 1948. I thought it was a wonderful voice but I thought it was a cold voice and not a communicative instrument at that time," Bonynge said in a recent interview.

Bonynge was convinced that Sutherland should veer away from the obvious operatic road towards Wagner and Strauss and develop a coloratura voice full of dramatic, florid flourishes.

Since the turn of the century, coloratura parts had been sung by "canaries," sopranos with light, pure voices but Sutherland was to change this, resurrecting operas such as Donizetti's *Lucrezia Borgia* and La Fille Du Regiment with her rich voice.

Sutherland was initially doubtful about the change of style but Bonynge's advice proved the basis of his wife's lasting fame which began on Feb. 17, 1959, the first night

of *Lucia Di Lammermoor* directed by Italy's Franco Zeffirelli.

After Sutherland came down the stairs in a blood-stained nightgown in *Lucia's* mad scene, she was hailed a star after a performance dubbed by critic as one of the greatest sensations in operatic history.

Since then she has sung in 48 operas and made more than 80 recordings, appearing on stage with most of the post-war greats including tenor Placido Domingo and Callas.

"Callas was always very complimentary to me, I quite adored her," Sutherland said. "She was very funny but she was very misguided. She wanted to be in high society but you can't combine a great career with that."

While never a prima donna with the mood changes of a Callas, the normally relaxed Sutherland, made a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 1979, had her differences of opinion especially with British conductor Sir Thomas Beecham.

Now a grandmother — Sutherland's only son has two children — she plans to spend her retirement writing an autobiography and travelling, although she has not ruled out a return to the recording studio.

Musical extravaganza, Texas, celebrates 25th anniversary

By Chip Brown
The Associated Press

PALO DURO CANYON, Texas — Welcome to Texas. Where music accompanies gun-slinging cowboys and war-painted Indians as they ride on horseback across dusty sagebrush.

Where roughneck cowpokes sing love ballads that could make a stone blush, and frontiersmen carry enough lone star flags to wallpaper the Alamo.

Where covered wagons roll, open barbecue pits smoke and, if you're lucky, a great western sunset paints the sky with pastels rivaling Monet.

For 25 years these scenes have been brought to life in Texas, a musical extravaganza staged at the heels of a 600-foot (183-metre) cliff guarding America's second-largest canyon. With Palo Duro Canyon as its backdrop and the sky as its lighting, Texas is filled with kicker dancing, large chorus numbers and costumes straight out of the musical *Oklahoma*.

While viewers gawk at the earthy scenery, the musical tells a romantic story of courage, a tribute to the pioneer

spirit of those who had the grit to settle where many said it was uninhabitable.

Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paul Green's story is one of farmers against ranchers and their eventual collaboration to bring the railroad and a new town to the 1880 wilderness.

A cast of 80 illustrates the romance and tribulations of settling the area.

Each night except Sundays from June to August, more than 1,700 people drive down into the Canyon, past signs warning of "falling rocks," to attend performances. A concrete amphitheatre has been built into the side of a hill at the Canyon.

Attendance for the show's silver anniversary season this year is expected to top 100,000 for the third time in five years. More than 1.7 million people have seen Texas since it opened in 1966.

Attendance that first year was 61,338 but has skyrocketed since 1986 when it topped out at 105,423.

On a given night visitors from more than 40 countries will be in the audience, said Neil Hess, director of Texas. "One night we had some peo-

ple here from Tasmania. I would say that was pretty remote."

The musical's officials award a musical triangle to the audience member who has traveled the greatest distance.

Hess said the story has not changed in 25 years.

The show's trademark is its opening. Two riders carrying the Texas and U.S. flags bring their horses to the edge of the Canyon's cliff and sound a bugle as the sun begins to set.

An enormous sound system fills the Canyon and at one point simulates a thunderstorm so realistic people have been known to open their umbrellas. The set also includes a three-car train, a railroad depot and a windmill. A brilliant fireworks show, expanded for the silver anniversary, light up the Canyon as the musical draws to a close.

And Texas wouldn't be Texas without a little lone star style in dialogue and action. When Col. Henry, a wealthy cattleman character in the show, is asked how he likes his steak, he replies: "Well, covering the whole plate, of course."

Jerry Williams, who has

had a role in Texas for all of its 25 years, said, "most people say the show is corny because people wouldn't say things like 'good grannies, I never learned to dance.' It may be corny but it is absolutely sheer poetry."

Texas was the vision of Margaret Harper, a theatre veteran who read about some of Green's outdoor dramas in a 1960 issue of *Reader's Digest*. Through her enthusiasm, the Texas Panhandle Heritage Foundation, Inc. commissioned the author to write an outdoor drama for the Lone Star State.

"We are lucky that the public is still eager to come, but luck is a small part of the picture," said Harper. "The main factor is the roots which Texas has — the pride of everyone in the panhandle and the support in every community."

Generous donations and improved marketing have helped the show become one of the state's most popular tourist attractions, Hess said.

The Institute of Outdoor Drama in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, lists Texas as America's best-attended outdoor drama.

Cryonics — another quest to triumph over death

By Philippa Neave

BERKELEY, California — Thomas Donaldson, a brilliant 45-year-old mathematician has a malignant tumour that is slowly destroying his exceptional brain. Doctors can't help him. Now Donaldson wants to have his head frozen before the tumour does too much damage. He has started what is becoming a much-publicised court case to gain the right to freeze his own brain before he is clinically dead.

He is convinced that by the time scientists have the technology to unfreeze his brain, they will also be able to use one of its cells to grow him a brand new body: a clone of his former self.

Donaldson would not be lonely out there in the Big Chill. There are 23 people in different locations in America who are "in suspension" — a euphemism meaning they are frozen solid at minus 196 degrees Celsius (-330 degrees Fahrenheit). They also have pets to keep them company, several cats and dogs, and more clients are on the way: about 100 people have signed up to be frozen when they die.

If the prospect of paying

\$125,000 to hang upside down wrapped in plastic in what resembles a large thermos flask full of liquid nitrogen doesn't sound too appealing, some people argue that it's better than ending up as dinner for the worms. "Getting frozen when you die means you don't have to rot," says Dr. Paul Segall, a pioneer of the freezing technique known as cryonics (from the ancient Greek "cryo" meaning very cold).

The world is enough to send a shudder down the collective spine of the scientific establishment, which largely dismisses cryonics as a crazy dream born from reading too many science fiction stories. Admits 43-year-old Segall, a Ph.D. in gerontology who was affiliated with the University of California, Berkeley, for years: "Cryonics attracts futuristic people." Now a research consultant for Trans Time Inc., an Oakland-based service company that has 15 people and several animals in suspension, Segall acquired some fame by reportedly freezing his dog and bringing it back to life. Named Miles after the character in Woody Allen's film *The Sleeper*, where a man wakes up after

being frozen for 200 years, Segall's little beagle seems as healthy as ever, unaware of the fame that his reported trip "to the other side" brought him.

Some animals do it naturally, Segall points out: "There are certain frogs that spend the entire winter in a partly frozen state; as the weather gets colder, their bodies start producing massive quantities of glycerol and glucose which act as an anti-freeze. They can survive months at temperatures as low as -4 or -6 degrees Centigrade."

The process used to freeze humans that was performed on the unsuspecting Miles is not for the squeamish. First Segall and a team of nine scientists put the dog to sleep. They drained the blood from his entire body. Then they injected a blood substitute, a simple chemical mixture that acts as anti-freeze, and gradually cooled the animal down with packs of ice, bringing the body temperature close to freezing point. No more heart beat or brain activity. Then, says Segall, 79 minutes later, the team gradually warmed him up, put his blood back in and Miles woke up, a little groggy from the anaesthetic

but alive.

The experiment was a breakthrough for cryonics buffs and a result of years of research by Segall to develop a blood substitute that can protect cells from frost damage. Considering that the human body is 60 to 80 per cent water, and since water expands when it freezes, damage caused to the cells when warmup occurs can be devastating. Cryonic science has not progressed enough to prevent this in the bodies currently in suspension, but people hope that the knowledge will come.

The other question is that since it is illegal to freeze someone before he is clinically dead, chances are that even if he or she can be brought back, they are going to be in a pretty sorry state. "You ask what's the point of bringing back an 85-year-old sick man?" continues Segall. "Think of an old 1950s Chevrolet you might like: You get a new engine, new transmission and just dump it in. Then you give the body a work over and there you go. We'll be doing the same with people."

What do you do for spare parts? "Grow them," says Segall. He dismisses visions of

neat rows of kidneys growing like aubergines in the field. "We will develop a body clone," he explains. "Taking the nucleus of a cell from the body, we will grow a human body to adult size and use the organs for transplant." Scientists can already grow almost limitless quantities of a person's skin, he notes, predicting that it won't be much more than 10 years before scientists start trying to grow human clones.

Segall is not worried that the world would become overcrowded if cryonics really caught on, because not many people will be able to afford it: "It's expensive. A complete make-over would cost up to \$100,000. But people can start saving up for a clone of themselves."

A capsule some 7 feet by 10 feet holds 10 people. So far Trans Time is storing its frozen clients in a warehouse in an industrial part of Oakland. "It's crowded down here, but there's plenty of room up there," Segall says, explaining that clusters of capsules could be sent into space. "It will be an outer-space storage facility, a cryo-cosmic satellite." It seems that several people have been working on designs

for such facilities since the late 1960s, when the idea of cryonics first took off.

In fact cryonics might open up a whole new area of work opportunities, not only for scientists, laboratory technicians and surgeons. "We'll have capsule keepers. They will be the grave keepers of the future," Segall says.

Advances in cryonic technology have important applications in present day medicine, in particular low-temperature surgery for which doctors are using new techniques to cool patients' bodies down in order to slow blood circulation and allow surgery. A similar technique may soon help cancer victims, according to Segall. "Imagine someone with cancer of the liver. You chill the patient down, remove his blood and inject a blood substitute. Then you isolate and warm only the liver area and circulate warm blood carrying a large dose of anti-cancer agent. This attacks the tumour but does not reach and intoxicate other parts of the body."

By selling the patent of his blood substitute to a pharmaceutical company, Segall has raised over \$5 million worth of equity. But he will



Paul Segall, an expert in cryonics, says he froze his dog, Miles, and brought him back to life.

need more to forge ahead: An experiment like that performed on Miles costs about \$12,000.

Cryonics may seem just another quest by humans to

triumph over death. True, Segall says, "but there's a new twist to this. This time we've got what no other civilisation ever had: science" — World News Link.

Babies start learning about language before birth — studies

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Babies start learning their future language even before they are born, a researcher says.

Studies have discovered that, beginning in the womb, babies recognise speech as a special sound and can distinguish between spoken passages, psychology Professor Anthony Decasper said recently.

In one study, 24 newborns were exposed to the sound of a heartbeat and of a woman speaking. They were able to choose which ear would prefer to hear which sound by varying the intensity in which they sucked a pacifier.

Babies chose to hear speech in the right ear and the heartbeat in the left ear, indicating they were already processing speech differently from other sound, Decasper said.

"What it shows is, at birth, there is some 'knowledge' of the language of the culture," he said.

Decasper, a psychology professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, presented his findings at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association earlier this month.

It is not clear whether the experience of hearing the mother's voice in the womb contributes to the development of the right-ear preference, he said.

Mriganka Sur, of the Department of Brain and Cognitive Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said the idea that the result shows specialised processing of speech sounds "makes a lot of sense to me."

It reflects specialisation in the brain's two halves, called hemispheres, he said. That probably is driven by genes, although the experience of hearing speech before birth may also play a role, he said.

Decasper also described earlier research that involved a group of pregnant women whose fetuses were in their 32nd week. Researchers asked the women to recite a particular paragraph of a children's story three times in a row each day until the birth.

Three different passages were used, but each mother recited only one. About 52 hours after birth, the babies were given a special nipple and earphones. By altering their rate of sucking, they could choose to hear a woman reciting either the story their mothers had recited, or one of the other stories.

They chose the familiar story, Decasper said. "We're talking about recognition of linguistically relevant speech sounds," he said. "The implication is that fetuses heard, perceived, listened and learned about something about the acoustic structure of American English," he said.

Butter clogs warehouses as Americans shun fat, cholesterol

By Lorrie Grant
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Americans' growing aversion to fat and cholesterol is depositing mountains of unwanted butter at government warehouses across the country.

Practices are also changing in the baking industry, where more and more firms are shunning butter in order to produce low-fat and cholesterol-free products.

"A lot of people are aware consumers are seeking low-fat bakery food and are making a concerted effort to provide that product," said Peter Hostle of the industry group retail bakers of America.

Storing the unwanted butter is the task of the U.S. Department of Agriculture,

which supports milk producers by buying dairy products that cannot be sold commercially.

While federal stocks of "healthful" dairy products such as low-fat milk have fallen, a stubborn butter surplus remains.

As of early July, 178 million kilograms of it were stockpiled, the Agriculture Department says.

Some 18 million kilograms of that total will be used in schools and other government programmes. The rest will have to be stored until falling prices or other incentives create a market for it.

"It is a legislative mandate that the Agriculture Department support the price of milk to farmers by buying products that are storable in form: bur-

ter, non-fat dry milk and cheese," said department dairy analyst Charles Shaw.

The food manufacturing sector, including bakeries, takes up roughly 39 per cent of annual butter sales, according to the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board. Restaurants and cafeterias absorb about 35 per cent, leaving individual consumers to account for the rest.

But demand for the traditional rich spread has been melting away because of public concerns about cholesterol and fat, a correspondingly greater use of margarine and other substitutes, and higher prices.

Some bakeries say that while certain recipes work better with butter, health con-

cerns compel the use of substitutes.

"We are using more margarine than butter," said Robert Artuso, who has run a small family bakery in New York for 25 years and made the margarine switch only recently.

"It's cheaper, easier to work with and doesn't affect the finished product," Artuso said.

Entenmann's Inc., owned by Philip Morris's Kraft General Foods Unit, has unveiled an entire butter-free line of pastries which sell alongside its original butter-laced line.

Continental Baking Co., maker of Wonder Bread and the Hostess Line of products, used to use animal fat —

rather than butter — but shifted two years ago to vegetable oil in order to make a cholesterol-free product.

But Sara Lee Corp., a major maker of frozen baked goods, has stayed with butter.

"There have been some pressures but we have not pulled any butter out of our formulation," a spokesman said.

The government knows that as long as customers want lower fat it cannot fully encourage greater use of butter. But it does believe it can encourage some additional use by changing the price it pays the butter producers.

"The Agriculture Department has been trying to adjust the value of butter," said Shaw. "But if you lower the

value of the fat component of whole milk, then you have to make an offsetting increase in the non-fat component so that the farmer is still getting the full price of the milk."

"As we have lowered the butter price to 98.25 cents from \$1.0925 (a pound), we had to also raise the price of non-fat dry milk to 85 cents from 79 cents."

While farmers tinker with cows' diets to try to make milk with a lower fat content, industry analysts say the government has to establish support prices closer to what the market wants.

Get the price low enough, they say, and it may win some bakers and shoppers back to butter despite health concerns.

Chinese doctors help infertile couples

By Janet Snyder
Reuters

PEKING — The vast majority of Chinese may face stiff penalties if they exceed their limit of one child per family, but there is help for those who can't have even that one child.

"There is no contradiction between China's birth control policy and our trying to help women have babies," said Dr Xia Wenxuan, a 56-year-old gynaecologist who runs Peking's largest infertility clinic.

Her department at Peking Maternity Hospital treats up to 200 women a month for fertility problems, she said.

"It's a matter of humanity," said Xia, as she examined a 37-year-old expectant mother,

"infertility is a disease, and its our duty to treat disease."

The woman, six months pregnant, said she had suffered two miscarriages and had nearly lost hope of having a child.

"My husband and I were so sad. We were trying to have a baby for five years and it looked impossible," she said. Xia said most of her patients came to her after one or two years of trying without success to have a child.

Childlessness bears a particular stigma in Chinese society. Nagging mothers-in-law have been known to encourage sons to divorce a wife who fails to produce an heir.

"Rarely do they stop to think that maybe it's the man

who is sterile," said one housewife. Xia said her clinic tests sperm counts and other data to ascertain whether this is the case.

She displayed a photograph album full of pictures of babies she has helped bring into the world following fertility treatment. She said about 30 to 40 per cent of the women she treats are able to give birth.

China's birth control policy generally dictates one child per couple. Exceptions are made for minorities and for rural households that can prove severe economic need.

The Communist government has made a major reversal on its family planning policy since coming to power in

1949. The late Chairman Mao Tse-tung told the Chinese to have as many children as possible to build the nation.

But after his death, Chinese authorities, alarmed by the country's population explosion, reversed direction and called on couples to limit their offspring to one.

Couples who try to skirt the rules and have more than their quota are heavily fined.

But the government acknowledges the right of each couple to have that one prescribed child and Xia's clinic enjoys full political support, she said.

In a city where the average wage is about \$37 a month, the bills for fertility treatment are astronomical.

It can cost up to 14,400 yuan (\$3,057) for six months of fertility treatments, which include two daily doses of expensive Chinese medicine. The patient's work unit picks up most of the bill for medical expenses.

Xia's clinic, like most medical facilities in China, is cramped and dark, with a tiny examining couch designed for the shorter women of a generation or two ago.

The clinic treats blocked fallopian tubes, one of several causes of infertility, with Chinese herbal remedies first. These are considered gentler and likely to have fewer side-effects than Western medicines.

One treatment involves sending an electric current through gauze bags of herbs placed on the patient's stomach above the ovaries.

Although Chinese traditionally are loath to break the skin in their medical treatment, operations to correct infertility are done — but only as a last resort, Xia said.

"When a woman's fallopian tubes are blocked, we try to treat it," said Xia. "If her one child bies and she's had a tubal ligation, we try to reverse it."

Reconstruction of the fallopian tubes is a delicate operation requiring microsurgery, and the success rate is known to be low.

U.S. adolescents risking harm to build muscles with steroids

By Deborah Mesce
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than 250,000 adolescents, mostly boys, have used steroids to build muscles and enhance athletic performance at the risk of physical and psychological harm, U.S. health officials said Friday.

Though non-medical use of anabolic steroids is illegal, the number of teen-agers using them is believed to be growing, according to a report by the Department of Health and Human Services inspector general.

The report recommended the department develop a national educational programme to increase awareness of the hazards of steroid use.

"I am very concerned that

some adults who are charged with our young people's welfare might be passively accepting or even tacitly approving the use of these dangerous drugs," Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan said in a statement.

Sullivan said an interagency task force has been formed to look into new approaches to stemming the abuse of steroids. Also, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is conducting an educational campaign targeted at young athletes and their coaches, he said, and the department is launching a new public affairs campaign on the issue.

In the best-known case of steroid use by an athlete, Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson lost his gold medal in the

1988 Olympics in Seoul when he tested positive. He was disqualified and barred from competing for two years.

Also during those Olympic Games, several weightlifters from various countries tested positive for steroids and were sent home.

Professional sports is also dealing with the problem. This year the National Football League began an anti-steroid programme under which players can be suspended for use of the drugs.

The report issued Friday by Inspector General Richard Kusserow estimated that 262,000 students in grades 7 through 12 used or have used steroids, based on a 1989 survey by the National Institute

on Drug Abuse.

The number of users appears to be increasing, the report said, basing its conclusion on interviews with 30 experts and 72 current or former steroid users.

More than half of the users said they had started using steroids by age 16, and 85 per cent said they had started by age 17. All but one said they used injectable steroids.

The experts said adolescents whose bodies are still developing are at special risk for some adverse effects of steroid use, including stunted growth, mood changes and long-term dependence.

The experts also said steroid users exhibit addictive behaviour, although it has not been proven that use of these drugs is habit-forming.

Experts to study effect of anti-AIDS drug

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Australian scientists test the use of a super microscope will allow researchers to conduct the most detailed cell analysis in the world on the effects of anti-AIDS drugs on cells.

The scanning proton microscope (SPM) at Melbourne University's Physics Department may speed up the search for a cure for the deadly disease, said department head Tony Klein.

"The exciting thing is we are the only people in the world who can pinpoint in cells where the drugs are found," he said.

The SPM produces X-rays showing the concentrations and distribution of the drugs inside cells, Klein said.

The three-story-tall SPM is the most advanced microscope of its type and shows concentrations of elements as low as one in a million atoms,

Klein said.

The Australian search for an effective AIDS cure is a collaborative effort between the government's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), which is developing the drugs; Melbourne's Fairfield Hospital, where the drugs are tested; and Melbourne University.

The plan to use the super microscope emerged from a chance meeting between Klein and the head of CSIRO's Chemicals and Polymers Division, George Holan, at a New Year's Eve party two years ago.

Holan told Klein that CSIRO was having trouble conducting standard chemical analysis of the drugs because they were "peculiar," containing heavy metal compounds such as tungsten and cobalt.

Klein responded that the scanning proton microscope

was particularly good at finding heavy metals.

Thus was born a partnership to battle AIDS.

Since that exchange, Melbourne University's Marian Cholewa has analysed five heteropolymers (HPA) compounds, variations of drugs being examined for their prospects in battling AIDS, for the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.

One such compound, the French-developed HPA 23, was used experimentally on film actor Rock Hudson before he died of AIDS.

"Once you find out which drug is the most effective, you are in business," Cholewa said. "We are looking for a drug which enters the cell and stays there the longest and won't be toxic."

Sed Marcuccio, CSIRO's Chemicals and Polymer Division senior research scientist,

said the SPM research would help in the development of more potent experimental drugs.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a fatal disease caused by the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV. AIDS attacks the body's immune system, leaving victims susceptible to a wide variety of infections and cancers.

In June, the World Health Organisation said there were 266,098 AIDS cases reported in over 150 countries. Half of the victims were in the United States. The second highest number was in Zaire, following by Brazil.

A half million people are believed to have contracted AIDS. A million people are thought to have been affected by AIDS-related symptoms, and 5 million to 10 million have been exposed to and AIDS virus.

Heat and sand: potent U.S. enemies in the Gulf

By Charles Aldinger

Reuters

WASHINGTON — While Iraq is virtually isolated in the world's political arena, it has two staunch allies against U.S. forces in the Gulf — searing heat and sand as fine as dust.

Defence experts say the grit desert temperatures, which reach 49 degrees centigrade (120 fahrenheit) in Saudi Arabia, where the bulk of the U.S. forces are stationed, could cause problems for America's high tech weapons in any war with Iraq.

Pentagon officials and U.S. commanders on the scene are confident of quick victory if shooting starts, but concede that hundreds of lives rest on the air-conditioned reliability of ships, planes and hardware — including radar.

Analysts say the number of U.S. M-1A1 tanks in Saudi Arabia will not match the Iraqi total of more than 1,200 tanks in Kuwait, which Iraq invaded on Aug. 2, even when the American buildup is complete.

It puts greater premium on

U.S. weapons working right, from the start and right on through any potential conflict.

"Most of the U.S. weapons like the M-1 were made to fight in Europe. They work in the desert but must be maintained constantly and can be troublesome with so much depending on computers," said Joshua Epstein of the Brookings Institution.

A U.S. army officer back in Washington from Saudi Arabia added: "When a tank's 'skin' gets so hot on the outside that you can't touch it, imagine what happens to the crew and targeting computer if the air conditioner quits."

U.S. Apache attack helicopters quickly heat up under the relentless desert sun. "When you hover on a day like this, the gauge goes on yellow (just short of the red danger zone)," a Saudi pilot said.

Then there's the sand. "We'll be okay, unless there's a sandstorm," said Navy Capt. Jerry Blesch, commander of the battleship Wisconsin in the Gulf. The big ship's vents are already covered with cheesecloth one-inch (2.5 centimetres) thick.

Veterans of U.S. forces present

in the Gulf during the Iran-Iraq war told Reuters that sandstorms are not uncommon even far out on the water. And U.S. sailors said heat reduced the ability of warships to accelerate under missile attack.

In the engine room of the Wisconsin, the temperature is 49 C (120 F) and duties have been cut to two-and-a-half hours.

General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of U.S. forces in the Gulf region, says he has confidence in U.S. weapons, calling them, "far more lethal, far more efficient and far more accurate than anything we had before."

Experts such as Michael Brower of the Union of Concerned Scientists agreed with Schwarzkopf that overwhelming airpower — more than 500 U.S. fighters and bombers are now in the region — would guarantee a military victory over Iraq if shooting starts.

"But Iraq has a lot of good weapons, many of them not as sophisticated and not as dependent on computers," said Brower. "And there is the intangible factor of morale in climate where their people are used to fighting."

Experts say sophisticated war models, based on the Pentagon's own projections, show that U.S. and Saudi troops could suffer one casualty for every two Iraqi casualties in any effort to drive occupying Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

One of Iraq's most feared high-tech weapons is the French-built exocet anti-ship missile. Two of them blasted the U.S. frigate Stark in the Gulf in 1987, killing 37 sailors.

Iraq said they were mistakenly fired by one of its French-built Mirage fighter bomber.

The Stark's defences were not turned on at the time, but U.S. navy officials conceded that electronic sensors on warships, which help pick up attacking missiles, are very susceptible to heat even when they are engaged.

Parts of the sensors are refrigerated and have to pick up transmissions instantly. Experts also noted that homing radars on some missiles do not click on until the final stages of flight, giving little aid to defenders against weapons approaching at over 600 miles (960 kilometres) an hour.

U.S. ideas for security ring Egyptian alarm bells

By Assem Hassan

Reuters

CAIRO — U.S. ideas for a security structure in the Middle East, which received Soviet backing at the Helsinki summit on Sunday, are ringing alarm bells in Egypt.

Despite its close ties with the United States, Cairo has for over 40 years championed Arab opposition to military alliances with foreign powers and fought bruising battles in the cause of neutrality and independence.

The ideas were first outlined by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in congressional testimony last week. He said U.S. forces might stay in the Middle East even after the end of the crisis as part of a new regional security order.

President George Bush sought to dampen Arab unease, apparently expressed through Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. He said at their joint news conference on Sunday that U.S. troops would not stay in the region "a day longer than is required."

But the joint statement by the two leaders also said that once the crisis was over, they would "work with countries in the region and outside it to develop regional security structures and measures to promote peace and stability."

Analysts, reading it with another Bush quote that U.S. forces "will be present in the area until we are satisfied that the security needs of the area have been met," saw a loophole.

They said it could mean Washington might keep its troops in the region until a pro-American alliance was in place. Whether U.S. troops would remain after that would be sorted out later.

Arab opposition to a formal alliance may look strange to outsiders after the U.S. rushed in

more than 130,000 troops to defend Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states from alleged Iraqi attack.

Analysts said opposition was due to worries about loss of sovereignty less than 20 years after the last Western dependencies in the Arab World — Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates — gained full independence from Britain in 1971.

More significant is a deep distrust of the United States for its strategic alliance with Israel and the strong influence of the Jewish lobby in Washington.

Baker discussed his security idea with Saudi Arabian, Kuwaiti, United Arab Emirates and Egyptian leaders in a pre-Helsinki tour.

Egypt has not reacted officially. But leading commentator Salama Ahmed Salama said in the semi-official Al-Ahram, it would be foolish of the United States to contemplate this idea.

"It will be more foolish and dangerous of Arab countries to accept it," he added.

Some Egyptians feel their country may emerge as a natural regional leader of any such alliance, diminishing traditional U.S. reliance on Israel.

But Arab diplomats say Egypt would lose much of the kudos it gained from its swift help for Saudi Arabia were it to be drawn into any U.S.-led military alliance.

Foreign alliances were anathema to Egyptians and Arabs everywhere even before Egypt's July 1952 revolution that brought the charismatic nationalist Gamal Abdel Nasser to power.

Nasser led Arab opposition to U.S. ideas for a regional military alliance as part of a ring of steel around the Soviet Union. When the short-lived Baghdad Pact was born in 1955, the only Arab country to join was Iraq, then a pro-Western monarchy.

Despite the end of the cold war, Baker's ideas evoked memories of the Baghdad Pact.

Ibrahim Farag, secretary-general of Egypt's right-wing New Wafd Party, said: "It is still premature to ascertain the dimensions and goals of the Baker plan."

"It is the Wafd's views however that the region does not need a foreign defence order. We rejected this in the past and we still reject it."

The left-wing Unionist Progressive Party (UPP) chided the Egyptian government for "welcoming the American military presence on the soil of the Arab homeland."

Salama said Iraq's invasion of Kuwait "could be a suitable opportunity to induce some Arab countries to participate in a regional security order led by America which will set its (U.S.) goals ... rather than an Arab security order defending Arab interests in the first place."

His fears were echoed by others.

Farag said the Arab League's joint defence pact, first proposed by Egypt in 1950 and adopted by other Arab regional defence framework.

While the Arab defence pact failed to come to Kuwait's rescue, "it could be developed to respond to needs in the light of the present crisis," Farag said.

An Egyptian foreign policy expert, who would not be named, said the Baker plan was "a revamped version of the Eisenhower doctrine." U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower was behind the ideas of the Baghdad Pact.

But one diplomat said the United States had learnt the lessons of the Eisenhower doctrine and was more anxious this time to legitimise its presence and not offend Arab feelings.

"The potential future security arrangement will probably be blessed by some Arab governments," another diplomat said, referring in particular to Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies.

Egyptians, however, take pride in never being party to foreign alliances or accepting bases since the 1952 revolution.

If Cairo ever joined a U.S.-led Arab alliance, one official said, "it will be one of its biggest mistakes ever."

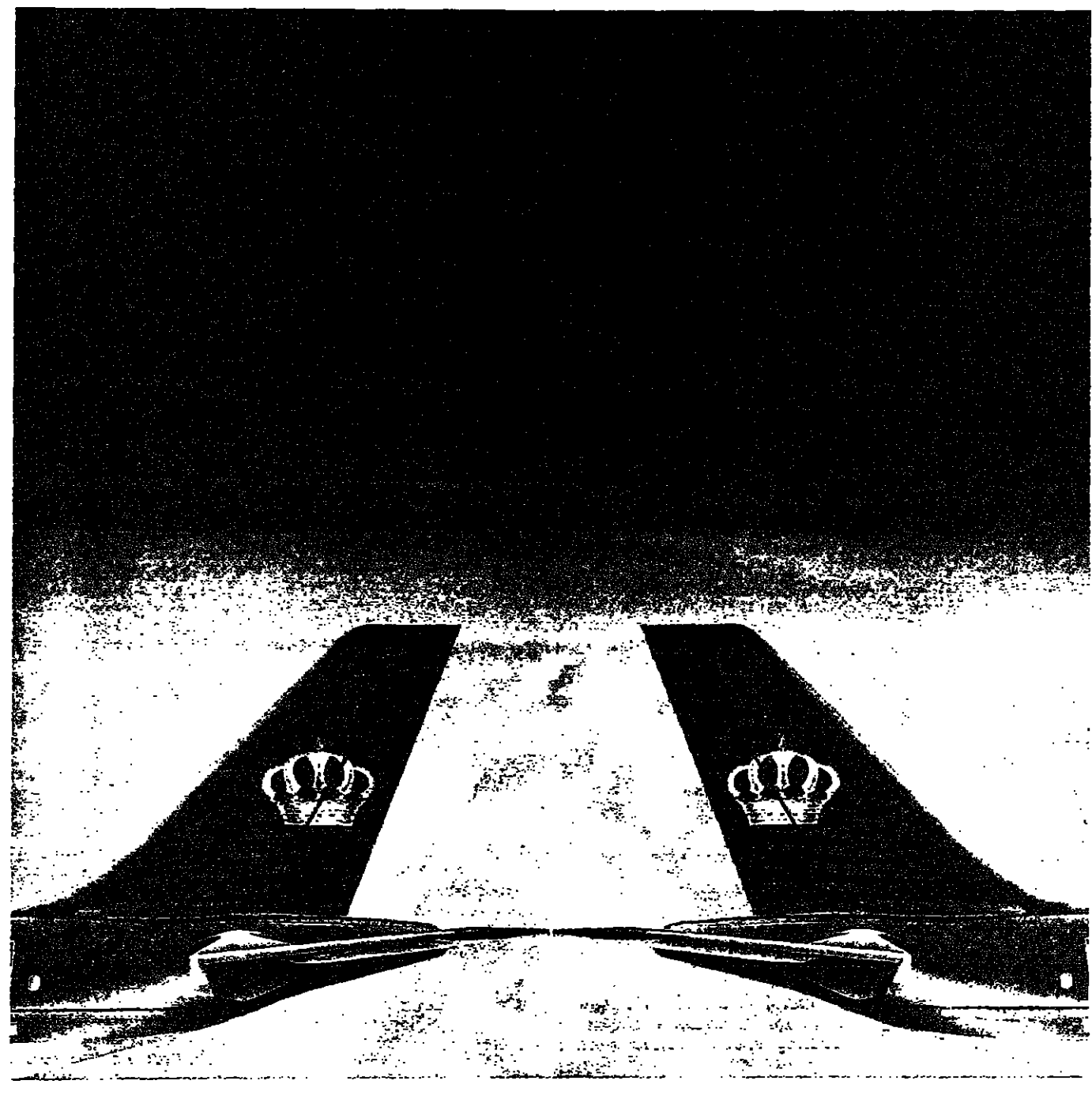
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Bush prepares U.S.

(Continued from page 1)

and American forces now number some 135,000 troops.

The president's message, which includes Arabic subtitles and an Arabic translation, "provides a very candid but personal description of our involvement and our goals and objectives in the region," Fitzwater said.

He said Bush put in a considerable amount of time writing the message and consulted with Arabic experts, diplomats and national security specialists on its content.

Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger was to give the Bush videotape to Iraqi Ambassador Mohammad Al Nashat later Wednesday and a copy was to be sent to the U.S. embassy in Baghdad for delivery to the Iraqi government.

Fitzwater said that if Iraqi officials censored or edited the message "it'll be clear to the world what they were not willing to let their people see."

In his speech Tuesday night, Bush strongly implied that he would use U.S. military power to force an Iraqi pullback if United Nations sanctions do not work.

Vowing Iraqi President "Sad-

"Iraq will not be permitted to annex Kuwait. That's not a threat or a boast, that's just the way it's going to be."

Opposition Democrats in Congress said Bush had their full support but criticized West Germany and Japan for failing to do enough to counter Iraq's invasion.

"Generally we think the response has been good. All the nations of the world have responded one way or another," Fitzwater said.

The White House official said Bush had spoken by telephone Tuesday with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and noted that Japan had agreed to raise its previously announced \$1 billion contribution to the Gulf operation.

Following are some key points from Bush's remarks to a joint session of Congress Tuesday:

"Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait completely, immediately and without condition."

"Kuwait's legitimate government must be restored. The security and stability of the Gulf must be assured, and American citizens abroad must be protected."

IOC to discuss possible Asian Games ban on Iraq

TOKYO (R) — Olympic leaders are expected to discuss Thursday a possible Asian Games ban on Iraq despite official reluctance to be drawn into the row.

The Executive Committee of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) has recommended that Iraq be banned from this month's games in Peking and expelled from the OCA because of its invasion of Kuwait.

The 38-member OCA will vote on the recommendation in Peking on Sept. 20, two days before the start of the games. A dozen Arab countries have threatened a boycott if Iraq is allowed to compete.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch told reporters Wednesday that the issue would be discussed at a four-day IOC Executive Board meeting in Tokyo starting Thursday.

He added: "We have to study this problem, but I think it is an Asian problem that must be solved by the Asian Olympic Committees. It's a very delicate situation."

The IOC has no official jurisdiction over the Asian Games and IOC Vice President Dick Pound of Canada said: "We let them raise the (Olympic) flag at the party, but it's still their party."

Samaranch met Kuwaiti National Olympic Committee (NOC) President Sheikh Ahmad Fahd Al Sabah Tuesday soon after arriving in Tokyo for the executive board meeting and next week's full IOC session.

Ahmad 30, was appointed Kuwaiti committee president earlier this month to replace his father, Sheikh Fahd, the emir's younger brother who was shot dead by Iraqi forces during last

month's invasion. Fahd was also OCA president and an IOC member.

The OCA is scheduled to meet in Peking on Sept. 19 to select an acting president to replace Fahd. The IOC is expected to discuss the recommendation of the Kuwaiti committee which is in exile in Saudi Arabia.

Under the OCA executive committee recommendation, any expulsion of Iraq would remain in force until the Kuwaiti committee was able to function normally.

Ahmad will seek support for Kuwait among IOC members. He said after his talks with Samaranch: "This is one of the most important meetings in sports in the world."

He added that he was optimistic that the OCA would ban Iraq from competing in the Asian Games.

Commission to discuss South Africa

Meanwhile the next step towards the return of South Africa to the Olympic movement will also be discussed at the IOC's Apartheid Commission meeting Thursday.

The changing political climate in South Africa and progress towards forming a racially integrated sports bodies have prompted IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch to be optimistic about South Africa's return to the Olympic fold in time for the 1996 games.

The republic was expelled by the IOC in 1970 because of its apartheid policies and has since been virtually isolated from the international sports arena.

But despite the optimism, African sports leaders stressed Wednesday further progress was necessary before South Africa's

re-admission could occur.

Amadou Lamine Ba, secretary-general of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa, said apartheid was still part of South Africa's constitution and much more needed to be done before the country could return to international sport.

He added: "Our dearest wish is to readmit South Africa. Things are moving fast, negotiations are in progress. But, until we have proof of discrimination no longer exists, we cannot speak of re-admission."

Jean-Claude Ganga of Congo, president of the Association of African National Olympic Committees (ANOCA), said South Africa had not yet fulfilled two conditions for re-entry — the abolition of apartheid in all fields and the formation of a single national association for each sport.

"It is for them to change. The ball is in their camp," he said on the eve of a week-long series of IOC meetings.

Ganga said he had had two dreams a decade ago — the Africa Games in Salisbury (now Harare), capital of what was then Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), and in Johannesburg.

"The first dream has been realised, with the sixth All-Africa Games to be held in Harare in 1996. Maybe, after apartheid is finished, we can hold the Africa Games or the Olympics Games in South Africa," he added.

Ganga is to chair a key meeting in Harare on Nov. 3-4 between ANOCA and South African sports leaders representing all races which will seek to draw up a blueprint for further progress towards South Africa's re-admission to the Olympics.

Mendoza wins WBA title

MIAMI (AP) — Luis Mendoza of Colombia stopped countryman Ruben Palacios in the third round Tuesday to win the vacant World Boxing Association (WBA) junior featherweight title.

Mendoza landed a solid right to Palacios' head early in the third round to set up his win in the 122-pound division. Palacios beat referee Eddie Eckert's count, but was unable to defend himself. Mendoza pursued his opponent to the ropes, landing unchallenged lefts and rights.

Eckert eventually stopped the fight 51 seconds into the round. The title bout was the second between the WBA's top two contenders in the weight class in less than four months. Mendoza and Palacios fought to a 12-round draw on May 25 in Colombia, forcing the rematch at Miami's Jai-Alai Fronton.

"I came well prepared for this fight and knew what to expect from him," Mendoza said of Palacios' attacking style. "I needed my jab to keep him away."

Mendoza entered the bout as the WBA's no. 1 contender and improved his record to 27-2-2 with 16 knockouts.

Vazquez wins IBF title

In Inglewood, California, Wilfredo Vazquez came on strong in the late rounds and stopped defending champion Joe Orewa in the 12th round Monday night to win the International Boxing Federation's (IBF) junior 122-pound (55.3-kilogramme) championship.

Vazquez, of Bayamon, Puerto Rico, is the former World Boxing Association (WBA) bantamweight champion.

Apart from being stunned by a left hook in the fourth round, Orewa, a Nigerian now living in Los Angeles, seemed to be in command through eight rounds. But in the 10th, Vazquez buckled Orewa with a left hook. Orewa began trading punches with Vazquez, and was knocked down by a right and took the mandatory eight count.

Vazquez hurt Orewa early in the 11th, and nearly floored him midway through the round. Vazquez knocked down Orewa early in the 12th and then put him on his back. Orewa was up at the count of eight, but referee Chuck Hassett stopped the fight.

Vazquez led by scores of 107-101 and 105-103 at the end of 11, but the third judge had it 106-102 for Orewa.

Both weighed 122 pounds (55.3 kilograms). Vazquez improved to 29-6-3, 23 by knockout. Orewa fell to 18-5, 12 by knockout.

Meanwhile Briton Dennis Andries will make the first defence of his newly-regained World Boxing Council (WBC) light-heavyweight crown against Argentina's Sergio Daniel Merani in London next month, it was announced Wednesday.

1996 Olympic bidders to face moment of truth

TOKYO (R) — Six cities bidding for the 1996 Olympics face their moment of truth in Tokyo.

In the absence of a clearcut favourite, the rival candidates will be wheeling and dealing up to the last minute to drum up votes before the International Olympic Committee (IOC) holds its secret ballot next Tuesday.

"Let the bargaining begin" will be the collective cry as high-powered delegations from Athens, Atlanta, Belgrade, Manchester, Melbourne and Toronto jostle for the glittering prize of the century's Olympics.

The 1996 games will mark the 100th anniversary of the first modern Olympics and the historic vote is expected to bring up to 3,000 city delegates, VIPs, IOC members and media personnel flocking to Tokyo.

Tradition and sentiment favour Athens, where the games were born 776 BC and reborn in 1896. But the Olympics are now a billion-dollar industry and sentiment alone may not be enough to satisfy some of the hard-nosed members of the IOC.

Problems of pollution, transport and communications and a shortage of money could sway a majority of the 88 IOC members away from the Greek capital.

However, the other candidates know that their own fortunes will depend to some degree on the impression made by the Athens delegation in the final run-up to the vote.

If Athens falters, Atlanta, Melbourne and Toronto are expected to emerge from the pack as front runners. Manchester is generally rated a long shot with Belgrade filling the role of rank outsider.

The vote will be the culmination of several years' intensive lobbying by some cities, which has prompted concern within the IOC at mounting campaign costs.

According to unofficial estimates, the six cities have spent a total of \$100 million on their bids and the IOC is considering rule changes to curb excessive promotional spending.

The vote for 1996 games will be the high point of a week of IOC

meeting which could eventually lead to significant changes in the Olympic status quo.

The projected return of South Africa to the Olympic movement will be high on the agenda following the optimism expressed by IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch last week that the republic would probably be readmitted in time for the 1996 games in Barcelona.

The IOC is also seeking to keep pace with political developments in Eastern Europe and is expected to examine the future of sports bodies in the Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, which are seeking to regain independence from the Soviet Union.

National Olympic committees in the Baltic countries were disbanded when the three republics were incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1940.

The unification of East and West Germany next month and the merging of the two national Olympic committees will also come under the microscope, particularly in view of Berlin's prospective bid for the 2000 Olympics.

One difficult area which could require all Samaranch's noted powers of diplomacy could be Peking's ambitions to host the 2000 Olympics.

The Chinese capital has indicated that it may announce a bid after staging the Asian Games later this month, although such a move would eventually present the IOC with a difficult choice between two major political imperatives.

The IOC is expected to pay tribute to one of its most popular members, Sheikh Fahd Al Sabah, who was killed in fighting near the palace of his brother, the emir of Kuwait, during the Iraqi invasion last month.

Fahd, 45, an IOC member for nine years, was also president of the Olympic Council of Asia.

The six-day IOC programme will get under way with a three-day meeting of the executive board starting Friday.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You will find yourself alert, alive and active as this work week draws to a close and Uranus goes direct opening up new opportunities for logical communication with others.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Now you find that you can communicate with those far and near with very good results and get bright people to go along with your projects.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A confidential advisor of much experience can now let you in on the best means by which you can have more of the good things of everyday living.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Consider well the most important friendships you have, see as many of these companions as possible and do what will cement bonds with you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is the day for you to arrange quiet appointments with powerful persons and experts and to huddle with them, seeing their future support.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A trip or some expansive venture with two ardent friends could lead to some very interesting results so plan it, even those on the spur of the moment.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Seek out a specialist in the field of greatest importance to you and get all possible data how you can make it operate in the world at action.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Go along with a worldly person who has some brilliant ideas for some new interests in which you can engage that you have not known about.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A fresh approach at your work will make it possible for you to add to benefits already yours but in an abundant measure.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Bringing your special skills to the attention of a brainy person or couple could be the means for much greater expression of talent in the future.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) See what needs to be done to make your home more a haven of rest and then you will be able to have a happier time there for sometime to come.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You can have an unusually wonderful day and evening by going along with those recreations that are alive and exciting and with compatible pals.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be on the alert for advanced ways by which to have more of this world's goods and reap the benefits that will come from your visionary ideas.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
AND TAMAR HIRSCH
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WINNING DEFENSE

North-South vulnerable, North deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 6 4
♥ A K 10 6
♦ 8 5 4
♣ K 6 5

WEST
♠ 13 2
♥ 3
♦ 9 6 3
♣ A Q 10 9 8 7 J 4 2

EAST
♠ A K 8 5
♥ J 9 5 4 2
♦ 10
♣ 10

SOUTH
♠ 10 9 7
♥ Q 8 7
♦ A K Q J 7 2
♣ 3

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♠
Pass 3 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Dbl 5 ♠ Pass
Pass Dbl Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠
It is surprising how difficult it can be for the defenders to collect the tricks that are their due. Consider this hand from the open pair event at the recent Spring North American Championships in Fort Worth, Texas, where East's failure to help on defense cost a brush of matchpoints.

Sitting South was Gail Greenberg, an off-time world women's champion and a formidable com-

petitor under any circumstances. Since the bidding had marked North with limited length and strength in the minor suits, South bid her better three-card major holding in the hope of locating a 4-3 fit. When she did, she was prepared to play the hand in that strain, had not East got into the act with a double. South decided that East probably was right, so she ran to five diamonds, and East doubled again, though on less sure ground this time.

West led the ace of clubs. When three clubs to the king appeared in dummy, it was a moral certainty that there would be no further club trick for the defense, so East should have dropped the jack of clubs to ask for a switch to the higher-ranking side suit, i.e., spades. At the table, East followed routinely with the deuce and, with nothing to guide him, West chose to shift to the singleton heart. Declarer needed no more.

She took the heart in hand with the queen, cashed all her diamonds, discarding a club and two spades from the table. Declarer crossed to the king of hearts to cash the king of clubs, forcing East down to the ace of spades and two hearts. East was then thrown in with a spade, and forced to lead away from the jack of hearts into the board's tenace, making five-odd, doubled.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Organize your practical interests today and be in touch with any person who has control over an aspect of your future. Continue to avoid one who hasn't your best interests at heart.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Steer clear of taking any liberties and making any waves where those in position of power are concerned; while tonight you can have a ball as you like.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Squelch that desire to be off during the daytime to some new and untried appeals and later you can quietly plan a successful future.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Not the day to question any statements or accounts but put off any business decisions until a better time and tonight clarify your intimate aims.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Associate can limit you during the daytime so don't yield to such persuasions while in the evening you can go out on the town and have fun.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Work can be a pain in the neck today but determine to do your best and you do better than you think; later seek out some new acquaintance of character.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Control that urge to play today when there is a serious project to

be done while at night you can better savvy business and financial opportunities.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Don't respond to some criticism or adverse condition at your home during the day but tonight you can get off with worldly persons and accomplish much.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Despite the urge to dash around town or country for whatever purpose you gain most headway by strict attention to whatever labour faces you.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Money and business matters can be in a tangle and you should await a better day before attending them while in the evening join congenials at recreation.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your judgement and your intentions are both way off base during the daytime so don't rely upon them while tonight you can have a very happy time at home.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Any secret working of affairs today could be disastrous and instead you would be wise to draw up and map out a plan for greater outside productivity.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) An older or limiting contact can make life difficult day unless you absent yourself from this person; instead get advice from moon-eyed man.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I'm feeling creative. It's bubble gum marinated in beer, then charbroiled to perfection!"

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ULIGE

KALNF

BINLEB

TURBLE

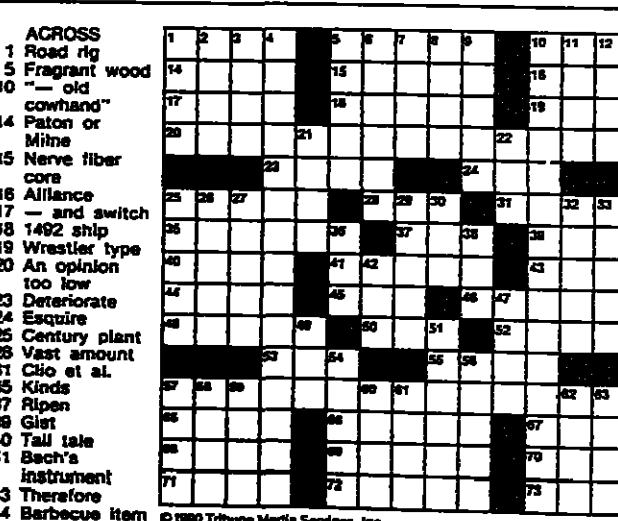
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: YOKEL OZONE MYOPIC GUTTER
Answer: "Society" was where young women started in by -- "COMING OUT"

THE Daily Crossword

by Frank R. Jackson



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE SOLVED:
1. RING 2. RING 3. RING 4. RING 5. RING 6. RING 7. RING 8. RING 9. RING 10. RING 11. RING 12. RING 13. RING 14. RING 15. RING 16. RING 17. RING 18. RING 19. RING 20. RING 21. RING 22. RING 23. RING 24. RING 25. RING 26. RING 27. RING 28. RING 29. RING 30. RING 31. RING 32. RING 33. RING 34. RING 35. RING 36. RING 37. RING 38. RING 39. RING 40. RING 41. RING 42. RING 43. RING 44. RING 45. RING 46. RING 47. RING 48. RING 49. RING 50. RING 51. RING 52. RING 53. RING 54. RING 55. RING 56. RING 57. RING 58. RING 59. RING 60. RING 61. RING 62. RING 63. RING 64. RING 65. RING 66. RING 67. RING 68. RING 69. RING 70. RING 71. RING 72. RING 73. RING 74. RING 75. RING 76. RING 77. RING 78. RING 79. RING 80. RING 81. RING 82. RING 83. RING 84. RING 85. RING 86. RING 87. RING 88. RING 89. RING 90. RING 91. RING 92. RING 93. RING 94. RING 95. RING 96. RING 97. RING 98. RING 99. RING 100. RING 101. RING 102. RING 103. RING 104. RING 105. RING 106. RING 107. RING 108. RING 109. RING 110. RING 111. RING 112. RING 113. RING 114. RING 115. RING 116. RING 117. RING 118. RING 119. RING 120. RING 121. RING 122. RING 123. RING 124. RING 125. RING 126. RING 127. RING 128. RING 129. RING 130. RING 131. RING 132. RING 133. RING 134. RING 135. RING 136. RING 137. RING 138. RING 139. RING 140. RING 141. RING 142. RING 143. RING 144. RING 145. RING 146. RING 147. RING 148. RING 149. RING 150. RING 151. RING 152. RING 153. RING 154. RING 155. RING 156. RING 157. RING 158. RING 159. RING 160. RING 161. RING 162. RING 163. RING 164. RING 165. RING 166. RING 167. RING 168. RING 169. RING 170. RING 171. RING 172. RING 173. RING 174. RING 175. RING 176. RING 177. RING 178. RING 179. RING 180. RING 181. RING 182. RING 183. RING 184. RING 185. RING 186. RING 187. RING 188. RING 189. RING 190. RING 191. RING 192. RING 193. RING 194. RING 195. RING 196. RING 197. RING 198. RING 199. RING 200. RING 201. RING 202. RING 203. RING 204. RING 205. RING 206. RING 207. RING 208. RING 209. RING 210. RING 211. RING 212. RING 213. RING 214. RING 215. RING 216. RING 217. RING 218. RING 219. RING 220. RING 221. RING 222. RING 223. RING 224. RING 225. RING 226. RING 227. RING 228. RING 229. RING 230. RING 231. RING 232. RING 233. RING 234. RING 235. RING 236. RING 237. RING 238. RING 239. RING 240. RING 241. RING 242. RING 243. RING 244. RING 245. RING 246. RING 247. RING 248. RING 249. RING 250. RING 251. RING 252. RING 253. RING 254. RING 255. RING 256. RING 257. RING 258. RING 259. RING 260. RING 261. RING 262. RING 263. RING 264. RING 265. RING 266. RING 267. RING 268. RING 269. RING 270. RING 271. RING 272. RING 273. RING 274. RING 275. RING 276. RING 277. RING 278. RING 279. RING 280. RING 281. RING 282. RING 283. RING 284. RING 285. RING 286. RING 287. RING 288. RING 289. RING 290. RING 291. RING 292. RING 293. RING 294. RING 295. RING 296. RING 297. RING 298. RING 299. RING 300. RING 301. RING 302. RING 303. RING 304. RING 305. RING 306. RING 307. RING 308. RING 309. RING 310. RING 311. RING 312. RING 313. RING 314. RING 315. RING 316. RING 317. RING 318. RING 319. RING 320. RING 321. RING 322. RING 323. RING 324. RING 325. RING 326. RING 327. RING 328. RING 329. RING 330. RING 331. RING 332. RING 333. RING 334. RING 335. RING 336. RING 337. RING 338. RING 339. RING 340. RING 341. RING 342. RING 343. RING 344. RING 345. RING 346. RING 347. RING 348. RING 349. RING 350. RING 351. RING 352. RING 353. RING 354. RING 355. RING 356. RING 357. RING 358. RING 359. RING 360. RING 361. RING 362. RING 363. RING 364. RING 365. RING 366. RING 367. RING 368. RING 369. RING 370. RING 371. RING 372. RING 373. RING 374. RING 375. RING 376. RING 377. RING 378. RING 379. RING 380. RING 381. RING 382. RING 383. RING 384. RING 385. RING 386. RING 387. RING 388. RING 389. RING 390. RING 391. RING 392. RING 393. RING 394. RING 395. RING 396. RING 397. RING 398. RING 399. RING 400. RING 401. RING 402. RING 403. RING 404. RING 405. RING 406. RING 407. RING 408. RING 409. RING 410. RING 411. RING 412. RING 413. RING 414. RING 415. RING 416. RING 417. RING 418. RING 419. RING 420.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Iraq misses \$2.8m loan repayment

LONDON (R) — Iraq failed to make a \$2.8 million loan repayment to the World Bank in August and said it could not transfer the money until the Gulf crisis was over, a World Bank official said Tuesday. The payment had been caught up in the international freeze on Iraqi funds imposed after Baghdad's takeover of Kuwait and the World Bank would have to set aside loan loss reserves if no money was received by Dec. 15, he said. The funds, part of repayment due on total debt to the bank of \$47 million dating back as far as the 1960s, were, however, already 60 days overdue in August when Baghdad said they could not be paid "until the current crisis is over."

Albania announces big wage rises

VIENNA (R) — Communist Albania has announced wage rises of up to 20 per cent to help boost production and its stagnating economy, Europe's poorest. The state news agency ATA said Wednesday measures approved by the council of ministers would raise average monthly pay to about 570 leks (\$57) from 533 (\$52.3) and ensure a minimum monthly income of 450 leks (\$45). The rises, of up to 20 per cent for those on the lowest incomes, apply to 642,000 workers in industry, agriculture and other sectors of the economy and take effect Oct. 1. Albania has a population of just over three million. Albania, Europe's last Orthodox Communist state, has begun cautious political and economic reforms this year, including a relaxation of centralised economic controls and limited foreign investment. President Ramiz Alia has said economic change will take priority in the reform process, reflecting what diplomats say is his concern over discontent about low living standards.

Romania wants compensation

BUCHAREST (AP) — A high-ranking government official has said Romania should be compensated for losses incurred during the Gulf crisis. Deputy Foreign Minister Romulus Neagu told the state news agency Rompres that Romania will lose \$2.9 billion because of its adherence to the U.N. embargo on Iraq. He said Romania has lost \$1.2 billion in suspended contracts with Iraq and Iraq has cut off payments on its \$1.7 billion debt to Romania. Neagu said the losses "directly affect more than 100,000 (Romanian) workers whose incomes are now in jeopardy."

Belgian minister assails oil companies

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgian Budget Minister Hugu Schiltz has accused oil companies of taking advantage of the Gulf crisis to boost their profits by slowing deliveries of crude oil cargoes. "Deliveries are being deliberately delayed in the hope of making usurious profits at the expense of the populace and the public treasury," Schiltz said in an interview in the Echo De La Bourse daily newspaper. Oil companies were trying to exaggerate delays in crude oil transport despite the fact that production and supplies had remained virtually normal since the United Nations put an embargo on Iraq and Kuwaiti oil, he said. The minister called for concerted European action to put an end to such practices. There was no immediate comment from the Belgian oil federation. According to European Community statistics 8.6 per cent of Belgium's oil came from Iraq in 1989, and none from Kuwait.

Top banker belittles oil shock fears

BASLE, Switzerland (R) — Western industrial nations are better placed to deal with the sharp jump in oil prices caused by the Gulf crisis than they were in the 1970s, the Bank of France governor has said.

Jacques de Larosiere said tight monetary policies pursued by Western central banks in the past three years had helped moderate money supply growth and dampen inflation, and commodity prices had been flat except for oil.

"All those are positive factors which make it easier for our industrial countries to absorb in a non-inflationary way the consequences of this situation," he told reporters.

De Larosiere said the current situation was much healthier than in the 1970s an 1979 oil shocks, when inflation had been accelerating and money supply expanding before oil prices jumped.

Echoing European Community finance ministers who met in Rome Saturday, central bankers agreed monetary policy should not be relaxed to offset the impact of soaring oil prices, a senior Western official said.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said there was bound to be a transfer of wealth from the oil consuming nations to the oil producers, made richer by higher oil revenues.

EC finance ministers made clear at the weekend that monetary policy would have to remain restrictive, oil price rises would be passed on directly to consumers, and wage restraint was vital to avoid a wave of unemployment.

Oil price jump brings dilemma to Indonesia

JAKARTA (R) — The leap in oil prices caused by the Gulf crisis is a welcome windfall for Indonesia, the only Asian member of OPEC, but the problem is how to spend the money.

"With the additional oil money, we will be able to increase spending but we must ensure it won't create inflationary pressures," a senior government official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told Reuters.

The government's budget for the current fiscal year to next March is based on a barrel of oil fetching \$16.50, nearly \$10 less than the current market price. At current production in Indonesia, every extra dollar in the world oil price is worth about \$500 million a year.

"The government has no choice but to improve the infrastructure," said Hartono Wignjowito, who heads private consultants P.T. Aspekindo Kresia. He pointed to the country's inadequate capacity to deal with the demands of rapid economic growth.

Ports and roads are congested. The telephone system is so poor, bankers say, it constrains development of domestic financial markets. Even a seat on a flight to Jakarta and hotel room, once there, are hard to find.

"We've learned some hard lessons from the past. I think we'll spend it wisely," said Bank Duta economist Anwar Nasution.

The government is not so sure. Inflation is already running at an annual rate of more than seven per cent so far this year compared to a five per cent target.

"We're walking a tightrope. By building roads, port and so on, you spend more money which will increase inflation," said the official, who noted also the need to increase employment.

"Maybe we can cope with seven per cent but double digit inflation would be hard... it would definitely have an impact on the balance of payments," he noted.

Indonesia needs an improved infrastructure so it can in turn push along exports other than oil and gas.

That push has successfully slashed the percentage of oil and gas of total exports in the past five years to 30 per cent from around 60 per cent.

But the pace of non-oil export growth has lately been less dynamic. Latest figures show a drop in February to \$1.03 billion out of total exports of \$1.81 billion.

"Non-oil export growth has been less than expected," said a foreign economist. "I'm not sure whether it's because of slower demand from overseas or increased demand for local needs."

There is also the worry that very high oil prices in the long-term will damage Indonesia's export markets cancelling out the gains from oil and gas exports.

He cautioned against any spending spree on projects before proper development programmes can be established.

"Also you can't always speed things up just with more financing," he pointed out.

He suggested the administrative bottlenecks which plague the country's projects could be best reduced by making it financially attractive for a more efficient private sector to join some of them.

The most alluring target would be the country's more than \$50 billion foreign debt.

"They could pay off debts early which would lower the debt service ratio (of around 30 per cent) and let them borrow more in the future," he said.

Ramadan meets Indian politician, underlines need to address rich-poor imbalance

Iraq says oil producers should offer special prices to Third World

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter



Taha Yassin Ramadan

AMMAN — Iraq has followed up its offer to supply oil free of charge to Third World countries with a call for concessionary oil price arrangements between oil producing countries and consumers in the developing world to address the "imbalance" in the economies of the rich and the poor countries, according to a senior Indian opposition figure.

Eduardo Faleiro, member of the Congress (I) Party of Rajiv Gandhi, quoted Iraq's First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan as saying at a meeting in Baghdad Tuesday that Iraq "remained fully committed to a proposal made at a non-aligned summit in Havana in 1979 that every oil-producing country offer concessionary prices to the poorer countries of the Third World under bilateral agreements."

Reviewing the economic situation of Asian and other developing countries, Ramadan strongly supported the proposal "in view of the large disparity between the economies of developed, industrialised nations and the developing world," Faleiro told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview from the Iraqi capital.

Faleiro, who served as minister of state for foreign affairs in the Gandhi cabinet which stepped down last year, said one of the main themes for his discussions with Ramadan in Baghdad Tuesday was Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's offer, announced Monday, to supply oil free of charge to Third World countries provided they make arrangements to pick up the crude from Iraqi outlets.

The Iraqi offer was widely seen as aimed at driving a wedge between the Western camp led by the United States, which is leading a fierce economic blockade of Iraq in the wake of Baghdad's invasion and subsequent annexation of Kuwait, and Third World countries which have to bear the brunt of the Gulf crisis by the loss of job for hundreds of thousands of expatriates and higher oil prices.

PARIS (R) — France set a quietly confident budget for 1991 Tuesday, trimming spending only slightly because of the Gulf crisis and forecasting a lower deficit and sustained growth.

The plan to be submitted to Parliament by Prime Minister Michel Rocard Oct. 15 targets a deficit of 80 billion francs (\$15.1 billion), down from 90 billion (\$17 billion) in 1990, government spokesman Louis Le Penec told a news conference.

The budget was based on expectations that real gross domestic product would grow by 2.7 per cent next year, with inflation 2.8 per cent, he said.

means to balance the situation was cheaper oil for the Third World," according to Faleiro.

Ramadan's pointed focus on Third World economies and the oil market situation appears to bear evidence that Iraq was pursuing a well-calculated strategy to garner maximum backing from the developing world for Iraq in its confrontation with the U.S.

Faleiro said Ramadan also promised that all Indian expatriates working in Kuwait would be allowed to withdraw their bank deposits "in full," and that Baghdad "will honour and protect all rights of Indian workers in Kuwait."

"He guaranteed the fulfilment of all (contractual and employment) obligations to Indian workers undertaken by the (toppled emiri) government, including gratuity and severance pay," Faleiro said.

However, there was no clear indication whether the Iraqi government, which has declared Kuwait as Iraq's 19th province, will allow expatriates who left Kuwait after Aug. 23 to return to the oil-rich emirate to resume their work.

A highly-reliable Iraqi source said last month that all foreigners who left Kuwait after Aug. 23 will have to secure new visas and related documents if they wanted to return. Indians who arrived here during the past three weeks have reported cancellation of their visas, which denies them reentry.

In his talks Tuesday, Ramadan also "affirmed that his country did not have any objection to Indian aircraft flying to any Iraqi airport to take home Indian nationals" stranded in Kuwait and Iraq, according to Faleiro. "This offer is unconditional," he added.

This statement came in direct contrast with Indian government assertions that Baghdad had told New Delhi that any direct evacuation of its nationals from Kuwait and Iraq was contingent on India supplying food and medicine to its nationals in Iraq and Kuwait.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, September 12, 1990 Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	658.0	662.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	474.6	477.4
Pound Sterling	1222.8	1230.1	Dutch guilder	367.4	369.6
Deutschemark	414.0	416.5	Swedish crown	113.1	113.8
Swiss franc	496.7	499.7	Italian lira (for 100)	35.6	35.9
French franc	123.7	124.4	Belgian franc (for 10)	201.2	202.4

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.8615/25	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1609/19	Canadian dollar	
	1.5833/40	Deutschemark	
	1.7847/57	Dutch guilder	
	1.3180/90	Swiss franc	
	32.61/66	Belgian franc	
	5.3040/90	French franc	
	1181/1182	Italian lire	
	137.80/90	Japanese yen	
	5.7950/8000	Swedish crown	
	6.1000/50	Norwegian crown	
	6.0400/50	Danish crown	
One ounce of gold	380.35/380.85	U.S. dollars	

Angola announces austerity steps, kwanza devaluation

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Angola's Marxist government has announced a series of austerity measures aimed at cutting a budget deficit and reducing the external debt of \$6 billion, the state news agency reported Tuesday.

The measures announced Monday by Planning Minister Antonio Franca van Dunem included a planned devaluation of the kwanza currency unit from 30 to 60 per dollar, said the Angop report from the Angolan capital of Luanda.

Van Dunem said the move would reduce the importance of the black market where one dollar can fetch 2,000 kwanzas. He said the devaluation will be

implemented within the next few weeks, Angop said.

Van Dunem said at a news conference that taxes on cars, gasoline, air tickets, alcoholic beverages and luxury items will be increased.

Market forces will be allowed to play a greater role in fixing prices and a number of smaller state-owned companies will be turned over to private operators, the minister said.

Some companies may be sold to foreign interests, and some jobs would be cut from the civil service, he said.

Van Dunem emphasised the need for stricter controls on public spending. "We spend almost as much on

The armed forces, fighting a 15-year civil war against U.S.-backed guerrillas, will face budget cutbacks of about 15 per cent, he said.

He also revealed plans for a long-term restructuring of the financial sector, including the creation of new commercial and investment banks.

The financial package follows World Bank calls for changes in retail prices, taxes, and exchange rates. Angola joined the bank and the International Monetary Fund in September, 1989.

Angola's budget deficit for 1991 is estimated at 50 billion kwanzas (\$1.5 billion at the official rate), Finance Minister Aguiinaldo Jaime said recently.

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All applications will be treated in strict confidence.

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2- Ground floor flat consists of one bedroom, one sitting room, kitchen, bathroom with separate garden and central heating.
Location: Shmeisani opposite the King Abdullah Gardens petrol station.
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Renault 25 GTS 1987 model, 30,000 kms, excellent condition, remote control, door lock, driving wheel, music control. Duty Unpaid. Price JD 7,000.

For information call tel. 657257, Ziyad

CAR FOR SALE

Volvo 240 GL, model 1986, excellent condition, fully equipped, diplomatic plate. Price JD 6,500 (duty unpaid)

Tel: 814263 (8:00 to 14:00 hrs.)

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1- Consisting of two bedrooms, salon, dining room, two bathrooms, kitchen, central heating, telephone, separate entrance, front garden and backyard.

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2- Consisting of one big and one small bedroom, salon, dining room, bathroom, kitchen, central heating, telephone, garden and separate entrance.

Monthly rent: JD 200.

Location: Shmeisani, near the Yugoslav Embassy.

Please call 661658.

TODAY AT

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

Dured Lahham
Madeline Tabar
In
1-KAFROUN
3:30, 6:45, 8:45 | 10:45 P.M.
2-SENIOR WEEK
5:15, p.m.

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155

Indiana Jones
in
TEMPLE OF DOOM

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

MYSTIC PIZZA

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **ALJAWHARA** Tel: 675571

Amitabh Bachhan
In
GIANT REVENGE

Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 p.m.
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238

Amitabh Bachhan
In
GIANT REVENGE

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 p.m.

2 Germanys, 4 World War II victors sign treaty on unity

MOSCOW (AP) — The four World War II powers that defeated and carved up Nazi Germany signed a treaty Wednesday with the two Germanys sanctioning their unification and heralding the return of full sovereignty to a people.

Foreign ministers from the United States, the Soviet Union, France and Britain signed the historic document along with representatives from the two German states in the Soviet Communist Party's plush Oktyabrskaya Hotel.

The so-called two-plus-four agreement is the last major document needed to clear the way for unification and eventually will end the World War II allies' special rights on German soil.

It marks the crowning of months of sometimes worried talks over Germany's future strategic role. Other nations, voicing reservations because of Germany's Nazi past, had expressed concern over what some perceived as the potential threat of a nation of 80 million Germans in the heart of Europe.

The treaty incorporates built-in limits — demanded by the Soviets — on the Germans' military might. It also contains the Germans' acknowledgement that

they cannot regain lands forfeited to Poland after the Nazis' defeat in 1945.

The end of the special powers for the World War II allies above all concerns Berlin, which is now technically under the administration of the four nations and not part of West Germany. After unification, Berlin becomes one city within a united Germany.

President Mikhail S. Gorbachev watched West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher affix the first signature, followed by East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere.

The four allies were next: French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, Secretary of State James Baker and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

After the signing, Shevardnadze shook hands with Genscher and de Maiziere. The six ministers, plus Gorbachev, drank a champagne toast.

"This treaty marks the end of the cold war era," de Maiziere said in a speech. "It is part of the most important body of European treaties of the postwar period."

Western diplomatic sources said the participants did not resolve until two hours before the

treaty was signed a dispute over NATO troop manoeuvres in what is now East Germany after the withdrawal of Red Army troops by 1994.

The ministers negotiated until 3 a.m. and again later Wednesday morning before reaching a compromise, the sources said, speaking on the condition of anonymity. They did not say what the compromise was.

Genscher lauded the treaty late Tuesday, saying it marks "a new chapter not just in German history but also in European history."

The two Germanys have chosen Oct. 3 as their unity date, less than a year after East Germany's hard-line Communist rulers were ousted in a peaceful popular revolution.

Full German sovereignty is expected a couple of months later, after ratification of the two-plus-four agreement.

In addition to the two-plus-four agreement, Bonn and Moscow have been negotiating agreements covering long-term financial aid for the Soviets as well as generous payments to facilitate the withdrawal of Red Army troops from East Germany. West German officials say the two strictly German-Soviet docu-

ments are nearly ready to sign.

The Soviet Union's decision to give full blessing to German unity has been made in tandem with Bonn's promises of financial help. The aid will mean a sizeable commitment by the Germans to help salvage the Soviet Union's devastated economy.

Details on the financial aid package have not been released. However, West German Finance Minister Theo Waigel said Tuesday that his government had agreed to pay \$7.6 billion for retaining Red Army troops and for building housing for soldiers returning home to the Soviet Union.

The Soviets had demanded about \$12 billion to cover the costs for the four-year withdrawal of the 370,000 Red Army troops from what is now East Germany. Bonn had initially offered \$4.5 billion.

The final haggling was left to West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Gorbachev, who discussed the matter by telephone Monday.

The United States and its two Western partners were quick in giving their approval to German unity, but the Soviets were harder to move. At first,

Aquino orders truce with rebels

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — President Corason Aquino Wednesday ordered a truce with Communist rebels in Manila and areas devastated by a July 16 earthquake, despite doubts by the military that the move will bring peace.

Mrs. Aquino said the decision was made in response to widespread calls for a "genuine peace" in this troubled island nation. The truce is the broadest since a nationwide ceasefire lapsed in February 1987, although recent rebel activity in the truce area has been limited as quake recovery efforts proceed.

"In response to the people's call for a genuine peace, I have directed the Armed Forces of the Philippines to maintain the suspension of offensive military operations in the earthquake-affected areas and the national capital region," she said.

The president did not explain why she chose to exclude some quake-affected areas from the truce.

Hours before her statement was released, guerrillas killed two militiamen in a pre-dawn assault on a military checkpoint in the town of Catbalogan on the central island of Samar — outside the truce area.

At about the same time, two guerrillas riding a motorcycle lobbed a grenade at the town's police headquarters, wounding two policemen on duty.

It was the second major rebel attack on Samar since rebels killed seven soldiers and two civilians during a raid on the nearby Marabut town hall on Sept. 2. Justice Secretary Franklin Dilon, a member of the Cabinet Security Committee, said the truce would apply in the Manila area and the provinces of Benguet, Mountain and Nueva Vizcaya, which were badly damaged by the July 16 quake.

The statement avoided the word "ceasefire." Deputy Press Secretary Horacio Paredes said the military was "allergic" to the word.

Violence kills 26 after de Klerk-Mandela talks

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Twenty-six people were killed in South African black township clashes after anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela and President F.W. de Klerk held talks to end weeks of bloodshed, police said Wednesday.

After meeting de Klerk Tuesday, Mandela said the white government appeared to be standing back from faction killings in black communities while it had the military power to impose order.

He said the slaughter, if unchecked, could wreck overall efforts to negotiate peace between the white government and the black majority, creating a post-apartheid South Africa.

More than 700 have died in five weeks of fighting around Johannesburg, mainly between supporters of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party and followers of Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).

The death toll include over 100 since last Friday.

Fighting raged through the night in several townships near Johannesburg. South Africa's business and industrial core.

Residents flung up makeshift barricades and sealed off entrances to some townships. Gunfire was heard frequently in the darkness beyond barriers.

Business Day newspaper said large numbers of police refused to go into townships, saying they were "too scared" unless equipped with armoured vehicles, which they said were scarce.

Reuter photographer Ulli Michel reported scenes of devastation in Phola Park, a squat camp in Tokoza just after dawn Wednesday. Makeshift dwellings had been burned out and demolished in a powerful attack which residents said was staged by Inkatha forces assisted by police.

"Inkatha guys were dropped from (armoured vehicles) by police and they attacked with AK-47s and hand grenades and set the place alight," said one witness who refused to give his name.

Residents said four people were killed in that raid, including an old blind man burned to death in bed.

Police said 12 people were

hacked to death or shot in fighting between Zulu migrant workers and residents of Tembisa township east of Johannesburg during the night.

A spokesman said a total of nine bodies, some chopped to pieces and other burnt beyond recognition, were found in Vosloorus, Kallabong and Tokoza.

Three people were killed in Soweto when assailants ambushed a mini-bus with Soviet-made AK-47 assault rifles. Police said the bus, taking hotel workers home, had probably been mistaken for a police vehicle because it was yellow like many police cars.

A body with stab wounds was found on a railway line in Soweto. After a series of brutal, indiscriminate attacks on commuters, black workers in "white" Johannesburg queued for hours for taxis to go to and from work.

A white police constable was killed and three of his colleagues injured after being led into an ambush in Soweto.

A police spokesman said they had gone to investigate a tip-off that arms had been hidden in a house.

Meanwhile, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Herman Cohen said Tuesday he hoped it would become easier to lift anti-apartheid sanctions after de Klerk's visit to Washington later this month.

But Cohen, who has special responsibility for African affairs at the State Department, warned that the end of sanctions would be subject to a lengthy legislative process.

Speaking after talks with Foreign Minister P.W. Botha, Cohen said he was pleased to see the progress being made towards ending apartheid under de Klerk's sweeping reform programme.

19 killed in gold mine blast

Nineteen miners died and 22 were injured in an explosion at a South African gold mine, the Anglo American Corp of South Africa said Wednesday.

Anglo said the blast, in the east mine of its Vaal Reefs Exploration and Mining Company, occurred early in the morning about 2,000 metres below the surface.

Column

Burglar's fingertip points the way for Dutch police

AMSTERDAM (R) — A Dutch burglar left behind more than 10 fingerprints when he tried to break into an old couple's home last weekend. Police in Hoogeveen said Tuesday they had identified the local villain from a fingerprint which was severed when the woman, 83, slammed the door on him. "We know who he is from the print on the finger and now we're trying to find him," a spokesman said.

Unruly Paris drivers to get carried away

PARIS (R) — Paris police launched an extensive plan to speed up traffic through the congested French capital, banning parking on major designated routes and warning delivery vans to keep off main streets in the daytime. In a new get-tough policy declared by Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, parking has been banned on 27 kilometres of selected thoroughfares known as "red routes." Vehicles stopping even briefly on the red routes will be towed away, with drivers facing a 700-franc (\$140) fine to retrieve them. Police gave the city's notoriously unruly motorists two days to get used to the new restrictions. The fines would be only 220 francs (\$45) until Thursday. Delivery drivers — told to carry out their work overnight before the 3 a.m. rush hour or keep to smaller streets — have reacted angrily and threatened protests against the rules, which were announced when most Parisians were away on summer holiday. Chirac has said the parking ban will eventually cover 100 kilometres of streets to cope with a forecast 12 per cent rise in traffic over the next 10 years.

Japanese women who live longest laugh last

TOKYO (R) — Japanese women, taught from childhood to be submissive to men, need only wait patiently to get the last laugh. The number of centenarians in Japan will reach a record 3,298 by the end of September, four out of five of them women, a Health and Welfare Ministry report said. When the ministry began compiling statistics in 1963, Japan counted only 153 people aged 100 or above. The total has risen in every year since except 1970, when it unaccountably dipped. Women centenarians number 2,618, or almost 30 per cent of the total. Japan's oldest person was Waka Shirahama, a 112-year-old woman who lives in the Miyazaki region, on the west coast. Average Japanese life expectancy is now about 76 years for men and 82 years for women. The ministry says both figures are the highest in the world.

Moscow's 'Jack the ripper' arrested

MOSCOW (R) — Moscow women can breathe easier — the Soviet capital's own "Jack the ripper" has been captured, according to police and the media. Weekend news reports said a man suspected of raping and strangling four Moscow women in July and August had been arrested Friday and charged. They did not identify the accused but said he had six previous, unspecified convictions. A ring belonging to one of the victims was found on the accused after his capture. "This maniac instilled fear in the women living in our city," wrote the daily Moskovskiy Komsomolets in an article entitled "The End of Jack the Ripper." "Some elements provided proof that a real sexual maniac and sadist was at large." There had been a total of eight attacks. A television reporter said the last victim had struggled free and managed to give police a detailed description of her attacker. Photo impressions appeared in major newspapers and a reward of 10,000 rubles (\$16,000) was offered for information leading to his arrest.

James Caan marries for the third time

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actor James Caan has married for the third time, his press spokesman said. Caan, 49, married Ingrid Hajek, 29, on board the yacht Regentessa in Marina Del Rey, a suburb of Los Angeles. The actor's son Scott, 14, was best man. Hajek attended the same school as Caan, who starred in such films as the Godfather and Thief, but they met only two years ago when they were introduced by friends. Hajek has been married once before.

Bonn agrees to limit control of Stasi records

EAST BERLIN (AP) — West Germany's intelligence agency cannot freely plow through the files of 6 million East Germans compiled by the former Communist government, both nations agreed Tuesday.

However, officials did not decide if the files could be moved to what is now West Germany, an issue that has obsessed East Germans as they prepare to unite with their Western neighbour on Oct. 3.

About 22 activists, some of whom helped lead the peaceful revolt that toppled the Communist government last autumn, have been occupying the building where the files are kept.

They are demanding that East Germans get to see the information kept on them by the former secret police, known as the Stasi, and that the files remain on East German territory.

Top Officials from both Germanys agreed Tuesday only that the records will not be merged with the records of the West German Secret Service.

"The Stasi files may not be used as regular working materials by the secret service," said Guenther Krause, top aide to East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere.

Krause spoke after a meeting with Rudolf Seiters, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's chief of staff, and West German Interior Minister Wolfgang Schauble.

A treaty laying the groundwork for unification calls for the fate of

the files to be decided by a united parliament to be elected on Dec. 2.

Critics say that ultimately will mean that West Germans, who will dominate the new government, eventually will have the final say over the secret records of East Germans.

East Germany's parliament has yet to vote on the unity treaty, and many lawmakers are demanding a change in that provision before they agree.

Any rule allowing East Germans to look at files also must apply to West Germans. Krause said, since 2 million Western citizens are believed to have files in the Stasi archives.

Krause said he believed an agreement could be reached this week. He said the possibility of destroying files also must be discussed.

The files give a glimpse of a nation in the grip of a paranoid, oppressive government and contain intimate details of the personal lives of both prominent and regular people.

Because each file on one individual could contain up to 60 other names, some officials are worried that granting someone access to a file will give him or her information about many other people.

Western intelligence agencies are believed to be anxious to disseminate the information compiled by the Stasi, which of all Communist intelligence agencies was second only to the Soviet KGB in skill and global reach.

2 more corruption charges filed against Bhutto

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) — The army-backed caretaker government filed two more corruption charges Wednesday against ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in what she has claimed is a political vendetta against her.

The charges were filed in the provincial capital of Punjab before a special one-judge court set up by the caretaker government to try corruption cases and disqualify candidates from the scheduled Oct. 24 election.

Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party is planning to contest at least four seats in the 217-seat National Assembly, the law-making lower house of parliament. Nominations were closed at midnight Wednesday (1900 GMT).

The government claimed in charges presented to the Lahore court that Ms. Bhutto misused her power in granting licenses for the sale of liquefied petroleum gas and the sale of 287 acres (115

hectares) of federal land for a luxury hotel. The land was worth billions of rupees (hundreds of millions of dollars) but was sold for 221 million rupees (\$1.1 million), the charges alleged.

The caretaker government is comprised of Ms. Bhutto's most outspoken critics as well as former allies.

Ms. Bhutto, who has called the government's action deplorable, had no immediate comment on the latest charges.

The 37-year-old former prime minister was dismissed Aug. 6 by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who accused the 20-month-old government of rampant corruption, nepotism and abuse of power.

The caretaker government, which accuses her of heading Pakistan's most corrupt and inept government, filed two corruption charges before a special tribunal in Karachi, her home city.

85 dead or missing in S. Korean floods

SEOUL (R) — Fifty-five people died and 30 others were missing and feared dead by Wednesday as floods triggered by torrential rain spread misery across South Korea, relief officials said.

Rescuers in boats and helicopters fought to save 100,000 threatened residents driven from their homes by swirling flood water, they added.

President Roh Tae-Woo described the rescue operation as "a war against water," and one official he expected the death toll to rise.

All flights from the U.S. airbases at Osan and Suwon were cancelled due to flood-damaged runways, a military spokesman said.

Nine Japanese tourists clung to ropes for over an hour before being rescued after their bus was swept into the Han River that flows through Seoul, police said.

The worst hit area was Kyong-Gi province surrounding Seoul where at least 40 people were killed or missing.

The government ordered the evacuation of Koyang-Kun west of Seoul where the Han had burst its banks.

"We just saw roofs of thousands of houses and electric

ity towers and nothing else," a helicopter pilot told reporters.

"The collapse of the river bank is releasing an immense amount of water into the village."

The Han has been swollen by about 50 centimetres of rain in three days, the worst downpour in Seoul for 70 years, weather officials said.

Thousands who lost their homes to floods or landslides have been housed in schools and public buildings.

In Incheon Port west of Seoul, a landslide engulfed 12 houses Tuesday. Rescuers used bulldozers to pull a 23-year-old woman from the rubble.

A river boat broke loose, hit a floating restaurant cutting its anchor cable and it drifted downstream and smashed into a bridge.

Police said 20 people from the restaurant barge were plucked to safety but 10 others were missing along with 10 from two pleasure boats that sank.

Rain stopped in the capital Wednesday as storms moved south down the peninsula.

Relief officials estimated property damage at about 25 billion won (\$35 million).

Colombia extradites 2 drug traffickers to U.S.

BOGOTA (AP) — Two suspected Colombian drug traffickers were extradited to the United States, the first such extraditions since President Cesar Gaviria took office last month.

Jose Hilario Ortiz and Raul Hernan Buchelli, who both face drug trafficking charges in the United States, were placed on board a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration plane bound for Miami, Florida, National Police Chief Gen. Miguel Gomez said in remarks broadcast by the RCN radio network.

Ortiz faces drug trafficking charges in Connecticut and Buchelli is wanted in Florida, said a police spokesman, who requested anonymity. No further details were immediately available.

Buchelli is wanted on charges of conspiracy to smuggle and distribute heroin and money laundering, while Ortiz pleaded guilty to a cocaine trafficking conspiracy charge and fled the country before sentencing, according to U.S. court records.

Buchelli's brother, Guido Lucio, also faces drug trafficking charges in the United States. But he was released last week after the government rejected a U.S. request for his extradition, citing insufficient evidence.

Colombia has extradited 24 suspected drug traffickers to the United States since August 1989, when the government launched a major anti-drug crackdown after the murder of a presidential candidate.

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Jaffna residents trapped between rebels, air force bombardment

JAFFNA, Sri Lanka (AP) — As the shadows of two helicopter gunships loomed over the city, people ran for cover shouting "heli, heli" to warn their neighbours.

Minutes later, high-caliber machine guns opened up a deadly chatter of fire from the sky. Bullets thudded into walls, shattered the few remaining glass panes and ricocheted off the roofs.

Then came the bombers. Ten planes dropped bombs over densely populated Jaffna, powdering the debris of already devastated houses.

Despite the intensity of the Sri Lankan Air Force attack on the town held by Tamil rebels, there were few casualties.

"We are like rats," said Sathasivan Krishnamurthy, a 60-year-old newspaper vendor. "They can't kill us because we go into the ground."

His house has a trench dug into its floor but no roof. Krishnamurthy's wife and daughters cook and wash dishes in the trench, apparently unconcerned, during the bombing runs.

In the three months since the rebels resumed their war against the government, Jaffna, a town of

60,000 people, has come under almost daily bombardment.

Its main market, on an open square in the centre of town, is a heap of rubble. So is the bus terminal. The railroad station is a mass of twisted railway lines and concrete. The coaches of what was once a passenger train lie on their side, pockmarked with bullet holes.

The 1,200-bed Jaffna Hospital is empty, shot full of bullets. Stray cattle graze on the unkempt lawn. Mongoose lie in the corridors.

The Tamil Tiger guerrillas who hold the town claim the government has killed at least 4,000 civilians in the Jaffna peninsula and other districts of northeastern Sri Lanka since the fighting resumed on June 11. Military officials say there have been civilian casualties but refuse to give a number. No one is sure of the real toll.

Ponniah Balasingham, a member of Jaffna's Municipal Corporation, estimates damage to his town at \$3.9 million. "I don't know how we can get people to pick up their lives again," he said. "The situation is hopeless."

Perhaps for the first time in the

7-year-old war for an independent Tamil homeland, public opinion is turning against the rebels who patrol the streets with automatic rifles.

Residents don't talk easily to strangers, but when they do, many express resentment. Some don't like being ordered around by the teenage cadres. Others fear extortion.

Yogarathnam Yogi, one of the senior leaders of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, says taxes are levied on those who wish to leave the city for safer areas and those who have relatives working abroad.

"We want each family to give us two gold sovereigns (about \$250) if they decide to abandon Jaffna," Yogi said. "It is part of the war effort. We also take this from people who have relatives working abroad."

Residents said that amount, usually in the form of jewellery, has been collected from every family, regardless of whether they want to leave or receive money from abroad. The Tigers issue receipts, which allow residents to obtain passes for moving around the city, the residents said.

People who don't have passes are often shot, they said.

Besides the attacks, lives are imperilled by a drastic shortage of food. Yogi claimed many people in Jaffna have starved to death, but said he did not have figures. A municipal official, speaking on condition of anonymity, also said there had been some starvation deaths, but he, too, had no figures.

Yogi said at least 150 to 200 Tigers had died in the fighting, including at least 100 in the bid to capture Jaffna. The only government garrison in town.

The government says about 1,000 rebels have been killed.

More than 200 policemen and soldiers are stranded in the star-shaped 17th century garrison, subsisting on occasional airdrops of food. Around the fort is a no man's land. The air force has leveled the buildings facing the fort to deprive the rebels of cover for an advance.

Two hundred metres away, the Tiger fighters are dug into a maze of underground bunkers. By the government's count, Tiger snipers have picked off 13 of the fort's defenders, who numbered 250 before the siege.

Before June 11, the Tamil war had killed at least 11,000 people. Jaffna, the largest town on the northern peninsula of the same name, is part of the region the Tamils claim as their homeland.

It has always been at the forefront of the fighting between Sri Lanka's Tamil minority and the Sinhalese who control the government and army. The Tamils allege discrimination by the Sinhalese, who comprise 75 per cent of the population.

From 1983, when the insurgency began, until 1987, the peninsula was under attack and a blockade similar to the one now in operation. In 1987, Indian peacekeeping troops landed in Jaffna after a peace accord between the rebels and the government.

The peace plan failed and the rebels turned their guns on the Indians. Jaffna came under the command of the Indian soldiers, but the rebel presence remained powerful.

The Indians left the Indian Ocean island this spring after 2½ years of unsuccessful attempts to quell the Tigers. A brief peace ended in June when the militants reneged on a ceasefire.

PEN - THE MESSENGER OF PEACE

The General Federation of Arab Journalists in cooperation with the Jordanian Press Association will hold an exhibition aimed at confronting the imperialist invasion under the title "PEN - THE MESSENGER OF PEACE". The exhibition, which will be held

under the patronage of the Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) AHMAD AL LAWZI

will be opened at 5 p.m. Thursday Sept. 13, 1990 at the Royal Cultural Centre.

It will include three pavilions:

- 1- The Arab cartoonists exhibition.
- 2- An exhibition entitled "Pencils and Children" (Invasion and Children).
- 3- An exhibition of paintings by the renowned late cartoonist Naji Al Ali.

The exhibition will be open to the Public for four days.